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Kent on Sunday

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BBC should help to fund therapy for victims, says rape charity

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

VICTIM support charities, swamped with calls following widespread claims of sexual abuse by disgraced TV star Jimmy Savile, have demanded the BBC help fund their strained resources.

Organisations which support sufferers of abuse, say the high profile case surrounding the late presenter has brought back painful memories of personal experiences, prompting more victims to seek help.

It has sparked a huge surge in calls with some charities warning they are almost at breaking point.

One agency saw calls rocket from 200 a week to a staggering 1,250.

Kent-based rape crisis centre Family Matters, which offers support and therapy to victims across the county, wrote to the BBC demanding the corporation provide an open fund for all sexual abuse organisations across the UK.

A spokesman for the charity explained: "Many victims are only now coming forward after years of suffering and we as a charity are witnessing an increase in applicants for therapy, calls to our helpline and more traumatic memories returning for current clients.

"We are requesting that in light of the developments within the BBC regarding Jimmy Savile, the BBC helps provide immediate funding to help all UK sexual abuse organisations deal with the increase in demand.

"An open fund for all organisations across the UK to access would enable victims of sexual abuse – both directly and indirectly affected by the Jimmy Savile issue – to be offered support and therapy as soon as possible."

The Gravesend-based centre said it

Continued on page 2

KENT SHOW VOWS TO MOO-VE AHEAD

IT'S BACK: County show chiefs say there will be no repeat of mud bath – **SEE INSIDE**

FINANCE

Car park rises bite our towns

SHOPPERS are being driven out of our town centres as a result of a hike in parking fees fees, leaving the traditional heart of our communities in danger. In a special report inside, we take a look at the issue which is spreading across the county and ask how the problem can be solved. **PAGE 5**

POLICE

Who will win your vote?

WITH Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner election less than two weeks away, we take a look at the candidates and judge just who has the best chance of creating a little piece of history when the county goes to the polls on November 15. Find out our verdict inside. **PAGE 9**

SPORT

'Bootgate' saga resolved

SPARKED by a boot thrown into the crowd at Brands Hatch, and which saw an online campaign and death threats, the three protagonists in what motorsport fans dubbed 'Bootgate' met up and were all smiles at a special event at the Kent race circuit this week. See our picture inside. **PAGE 17**

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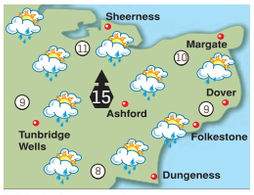

TODAY: Some sun, but heavy showers too. Moderate southerly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells and showers. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.27	6.2	13.34	6.0
Margate	02.24	4.4	14.56	4.4
St Mary's	07.17	5.0	19.37	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Saturday	Max 11C	Min 5C

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SAVILE

Rape charity 'confident' of BBC funding support

Continued from front page

was being forced to take on more volunteers to work on its helpline to tackle the high demand.

"As a charity that is dependent on grants and funding to continue to keep this service available to all victims of rape and sexual abuse, we are desperate for funds to be made available."

An inquiry is currently under way into culture and practices at the BBC in the era of the sexual abuse by Savile. There are allegations he abused more than 300 young victims over 40 years – some on BBC property.

Questions have been raised over whether senior staff at the corporation were aware of what was going on.

The BBC has also set up several inquiries in the wake of the scandal; one looking into the scrapping of a Newsnight exposé last year ahead of tributes to Savile over Christmas.

North Thanet Tory MP Sir Roger Gale warned that some BBC bosses may have to "fall on their swords" over the affair.

"If the true independence of the BBC, which is vital as our public service broadcaster, is to be maintained and if public trust is to be restored then what is needed is a clear-out of senior management and a change in the culture of self-righteousness and the injection of a little humility," he said.

Scotland Yard said it was following around 400 lines of inquiry as part of the Savile police investigation.

Experts from support groups say the high profile case has brought back painful memories of personal experiences to victims.

They said the scandal had also given some the courage to speak out for the first time about historic abuse, having hidden it for decades.

Chief executive of the National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC), Peter Saunders, from Bromley, said the organisation had seen 5,000 calls in four weeks. A typical week usually sees 200-300 calls.

Mr Saunders said he had a meeting this week with BBC director-general George Entwistle about the possibility of funding.

"I'm confident we're going to get the support we need from them, although I can't say too much more than that at the moment," he said.

"I'm hopeful they will help. The rise is carrying on – we've had 5,000 calls in four weeks and I haven't even started to count the number we've had this week.

"I'm not saying we're going to collapse, but we're near breaking point. We needed to step things up a gear and seek help.

"Like Family Matters, we are seeing a huge need. Our volunteers are doing an incredible job here, but we need to get support."

Mr Saunders said: "Long before the Savile exposé, victims would have kept the sexual abuse they suffered a secret, for 20, 30, 40 years, sometimes longer. There is nothing unusual about that.

"What this high profile case has done is given victims and survivors the confidence to speak up."

When asked, a BBC spokesman told us this week: "We are discussing a number of ideas with various charities."

EVENT

Organisers of the county show vow not to muddy its reputation again

By Dean Kilpatrick
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DESPITE having a torrid time in the rain this year, organisers of the Kent County Show have confirmed the event will take place again next year.

Organisers, the Kent Agricultural Society, this week said they were convinced they have come up with a better plan to deal with any bad weather, after shambolic scenes in July.

But they refused to elaborate as to what the solution will be should the heavens open again.

Heavy overnight rain saw car parks turned into swamps and hundreds of vehicles stuck in the mud. All parking sites were closed to allow emergency work which saw four hundred tonnes of bark chipping spread to strengthen the surface of the floor but problems persisted throughout the event.

GRABBING THE BULL BY THE HORNS: County show organisers say they are already making plans to ensure next year's event isn't spoiled by bad weather

Visitors were urged to make other travel arrangements, but thousands more were left angry and disappointed.

However, the 84th edition of the county show will be staged at the Kent Showground in Detling between July 12 and July 14 in 2013 in what will be an opportunity for it to redeem its damaged reputation.

Organisers say the event is likely to have lost more then £300,000 after the rain-hit shambles which saw "the worse weather on record making 2012 a difficult year".

Society chairman George Jessel, who announced before this year's event that he plans to step down in February, said: "We are determined the annual Kent County Show should continue to showcase the best in agriculture and rural life.

"After the wet weather in July 2012, plans are under way to ensure parking is improved, with attention given to pinch points across the site."

The show regularly pulls in tens of thousands of visitors and is seen as one of the highlights of the county's calendar.

Ticketholders who were unable to go to this year's event due to the muddy conditions are expected to be given tickets for next year's show instead of refunds.

Mr Jessel added: "The society is pulling out all the stops in its preparations to ensure the show is as entertaining and welcoming as ever.

"There is no doubt the Kent County Show is a highlight of the year, celebrating the county's agricultural heritage and history. It attracts visitors and exhibitors from around the country and abroad, and a huge amount of media attention. Therefore it is paramount to keep agriculture at the heart of the show."

Events at next year's three-day festival are set to include the traditional parade of livestock, as well as equestrian events, horticultural displays and a beer and cider festival.

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CELEBRITY

Former Pfizer site transformed into post-apocalyptic horror set as Brad Pitt drops in for filming

By Dean Kilpatrick
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A FILM crew behind Hollywood hunk Brad Pitt's upcoming blockbuster movie have been filming at disused laboratories in the county.

The team behind post-apocalyptic horror movie World War Z shot scenes at the Pfizer site in Sandwich.

Based on a critically-acclaimed book, the zombie movie is understood to already be a year behind schedule and the recent filming in Kent were re-shoots for key parts of the flick.

It comes a year after plans were shelved for Mr Pitt to spend time in Tunbridge Wells shooting scenes of the movie at a disused supermarket.

The film crew pulled out after local newspapers leaked the news, prompting fears the set would be disrupted by fans eager to catch a glimpse of the superstar.

Instead, the crew shot scenes for the zombie film in Glasgow.

A spokesman for the Kent Film Office, which promotes the county to movie studios, says it was unaware of the filming as it was all shot on private property.

Discovery Park opted not to comment when contacted.

The film is now expected to be released next June as a summer blockbuster.

Mr Pitt, whose partner is superstar Angelina Jolie, is frequently voted Hollywood's hottest lead male and has appeared in movies such as Fight Club, Troy, Mr & Mrs Smith, and Seven.

STAR: Brad Pitt's latest film is World War Z

NEWS IN BRIEF

Movember is back

STAFF at Faversham brewers Shepherd Neame have joined Movember - the annual charity push to raise awareness of male health and cancers.

The firm is an official partner of the scheme and this week saw male staff shave ahead of growing their moustaches for 30 days to raise money and awareness for men's health issues.

It has also put a limited edition Movember Spitfire ale on sale.

For details see uk.movember.com.

Fraudster sentenced

A 55-year-old woman has received a suspended three-month jail term after admitting claiming more than £28,000 in benefits fraudulently.

Jennifer Ibrahim-Kori, who now lives in Gibbons Road, Sittingbourne, had failed to notify authorities of a change in her circumstances.

She received the suspended sentence, a 12-month supervision order and 60 hours community service after appearing in court this week.

Efforts to recover the money will now begin.

Promise of 3,000 jobs

AMBITIOUS owners of the ex-Pfizer site in Sandwich have pledged to create 3,000 new jobs at the newly-named Discovery Park by 2017.

In February 2011, the area was left devastated when the US drugs giant announced it was pulling out of the 300-acre site. Now it hopes to benefit from Enterprise Zone status and various investment schemes.

PETS

Homeless bird swears he'll be colourful entertainment

A FOUL-mouthed bird with a taste for human flesh is up for adoption.

So long as you don't mind enduring a string of expletives during the day and the odd peck if you get too close, you may be interested in taking on Beaky, a chattering lory who is more bad bird than angry bird.

He didn't just get his name from his blue language, but because he also enjoys biting people he doesn't really know.

The lory is a parrot-type bird, but the RSPCA warns that the new owner needs to not only be pretty broadminded, but also expert in the care of exotic creatures.

Beaky is currently in the care of the RSPCA Leybourne Animal Centre, in West Malling. His favourite curse is the dreaded F-word, along with 'a***hole' and he likes to call everyone 'stupid'.

Staff said he actually has a very large vocabulary and repeats most of what he hears.

A spokesman said Beaky is an intelligent and playful bird who is a good mimic but has picked up some colourful language.

He enjoys the company of people, but staff warn he may bite at first until he has formed a bond with someone.

Also up for adoption is Captain Scarlet, a crimson rosella, another type of parrot-looking bird. He is pretty small and loves to whistle. He arrived at the centre as a stray and would be best suited to an aviary as he has had little interaction with people.

Angelina Lusher, supervisor at the RSPCA centre, said: "We've tried our usual contacts to re-home them with responsible and experienced owners, but still need to find them good new homes.

"Both are beautiful birds, but please only come forward if you have experience in keeping exotic species like these as we need to get them the best homes possible with plenty of species-specific enrichment, space and interaction with people or other birds to give them a fulfilling life."

Anyone interested can phone 0300 123 0751.

BIRDS IN NEED: Sweary Beaky, left, and Captain Scarlet

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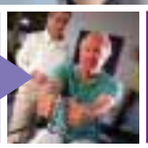

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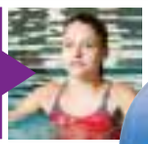

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BUSINESS

Time running out for high streets as parking costs drive customers away

By Marijke Cox
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SHOPPERS faced with rising parking charges are voting with their feet and boycotting some of Kent's high streets.

Anxious traders fear this could be the final nail in the coffin for high street businesses which are already competing with out-of-town shopping centres, and they are appealing to councils to stop pushing up fees.

Just this week, shopkeepers in Folkestone reported a staggering 35 per cent drop in takings since new parking charges were introduced in September.

Shepway District Council brought in pay-and-display machines where parking was previously free for an hour.

Folkestone Town Traders carried out a survey of 130 shops to highlight the damage it had done.

"Eighty per cent of businesses within the town and parking scheme boundaries are 30-40 per cent down on footfall and takings," said a group spokesman.

"Some are a lot worse. National stores comparing sales at sister stores in local towns near to Folkestone are reporting healthy growth."

Shepway's head of communities Bob Porter said the council had committed to reviewing the scheme after six months, but would consider the latest findings as quickly as possible.

He added: "As parking remains free in prime shopping streets and as we have cut car park costs, we are surprised traders are reporting a drop in trade over the past month.

"In fact, over the same period, there has been a 22 per cent increase in the number of cars using our Folkestone town centre car parks – that's at least 2,400 more people."

But it's not just Folkestone that has seen changes to parking.

Earlier this year, Gravesham increased its previous £1 flat fee for four hours up to £2, and scrapped free Saturday parking.

Civic society Urban Gravesend said it was having a negative impact on trade. A petition was launched calling on the council to reintroduce free Saturday parking, collecting 6,000 signatures.

A spokesman for the group said: "Local shops and businesses have been hard hit by the parking fees and we believe the council could now afford to drop Saturday charges in order to encourage shoppers and visitors into Gravesend."

But members of Gravesham council voted against cutting parking fees.

Sevenoaks District Council looks set to vote in favour of bringing in increases in 2013, of 10p and 20p depending on the length of time parked, and drivers buying annual tickets could see a rise of £10.

The Lib Dem group has launched a petition against the increases.

Chairman Roger Walshe said: "We believe that is the wrong course of action when our high street is already suffering and needs more, not fewer, visitors."

Prices in most town centres have risen or are being increased on average by 10-20p an hour, and residents' permits have also increased, although this varies across the county.

But councils have defended the rises, with many blaming associated costs in running car parks.

Rises have been seen in Canterbury, and in the Dover district drivers have see the amount of time they can park for their money cut in some car parks, and long-stay fees increased by 50p.

Medway has also agreed to push up fees by 20p. This followed a three-year freeze and the council vowed to implement that freeze again between April 2013-2016.

The council said: "This rise still means that Medway will have cheaper car parking than many other authorities in Kent."

JUST THE TICKET, OR CUTTING LIFEBLOOD OF TRADERS?

CHIEF executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Jo James, said: "Town centre parking is a contentious issue with a number of ramifications which generate a variety of opinions.

"The economic viability of high streets depends entirely on the number of customers, and the number of customers is to a large extent dependent on the convenience of access.

"The high street as we currently know it is undoubtedly under threat from out-of-town retail centres and from online shopping facilities.

"Whatever the measures town centres have take to compete with this opposition, a crucial aspect has to be the provision of adequate parking facilities – and a lack of those facilities must surely impact on customer footfall.

"I am aware many town centre traders are concerned about parking charges, and especially concerned about the rising cost of parking. However, to maintain existing facilities, and – importantly – to expand those facilities for further customer convenience, is expensive.

"Parking facilities, either local authority of private, have to be paid for one way or another.

"Another facet of the argument is from the perspective of the customer. Really, just how expensive is parking?

"If you need simply to pop into the bank or return a library book, it can seem considerable – but seen as a percentage of what you might spend overall on a shopping trip, it is pretty insignificant.

"So, a contentious issue, and one that needs sorting out. We live in a free market economy, but whose free market is it?

"Should we look at the freedom of those providing parking facilities to charge an economic rate, the freedom of the trader to rely on good customer footfall, or the freedom of the customer to enjoy cheap parking?"

EMERGENCY SERVICE

New fire stations to be built, just months after closures

FIVE new fire stations are to be built across Kent – just months after a number of part-time facilities were closed due to cutbacks.

Following a countywide review by Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), stations are to be built in Ash-cum-Ridley near West Kingsdown, Ramsgate, Rochester, Gillingham and Herne Bay, to ensure "modern day needs" are met.

However, the news comes after stations in Halling, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Sturry, Matfield, Queenborough, Rusthall, and Seal, were all closed in April as part of the service's plans to make £7 million of savings by the end of 2013-14.

The decision was made after Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority said it had seen a 25 per cent drop in the number of fires and other incidents since 2005.

KFRS has looked at a number ways of cutting its cost after the service was warned that government funding could be cut by as much as £12m over three years.

And although the fire service's element of council tax has been frozen for the last two years, it has not ruled out the possibility of increasing it by up to two per cent depending on its next batch of government funding.

However, it is believed an increase would only set back an average band D house 3p a week.

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority chairman Bryan Cope said: "We are putting the foundations in place to build a service ready to meet the changing needs of local people.

"That means we must look forward, modernise and if necessary take tough decisions, but always with one end in sight – the safety of local people. To do this, we are using cutting-edge technology to improve how we fight fires, giving our staff the best training and – to avoid fires and accidents in the first place – provide residents with essential information to keep themselves safe."

Other ideas outlined in the safety plan include investing in new vehicles and equipment to deal with inaccessible fires, as well as deciding to stop attending warnings from automatic smoke alarms unless a fire is verified.

The service says 98 per cent of call-outs triggered by the devices turned out to be false alarms, and were diverting rescue crews away from genuine emergencies.

KFRS has already stopped attending such warnings during the day, but from April, 2013, no automatic smoke alarm call-outs will be attended unless a fire has been verified.

The safety plan is now under public consultation until January 14, 2013, and the full report can be read at www.kent.fire-uk.org.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Miranda films in town

BBC film crews were at Chatham's Historic Dockyard this week, shooting scenes for popular TV drama Call the Midwife, starring Miranda Hart.

The show is no stranger to the location, having shot scenes at the site before. Executive producer Pippa Harris said: "It allowed us to bring a real sense of scale to the production and glimpse what it must have been like to work alongside a busy dock in the 1950s."

Facebook teacher plea

A BIG push is being made to attract high-flying teachers to come and work in Kent, amid fears the county is missing out on some of the top talent.

Kent County Council has launched the Your Perfect Kent Day campaign via Facebook after concerns teachers were looking to the higher salaries offered in London. However, union chiefs say the county's selective system deters many from teaching here.

NATURE

Ash tree numbers may be decimated if wind blows in killer disease

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

KENT'S ash tree population could be left devastated by a killer disease that has wiped out 90 per cent of the species in Denmark.

Cases of chalara fraxinea infected trees have already been discovered in Britain, and there are concerns the fungus will spread to the county.

Tests have been carried out on sites across Kent, although no confirmed cases have yet been identified. Tell-tale signs of the disease include dieback of shoots and twigs, and leaves that are wilting and suffering black-brownish discoloration at the leaf base.

A Woodland Trust spokesman said: "The disease could be in any tree in the South East. It may be transmitted by human contact, but it's possible it is airborne. These questions need looking in to. It's going to be tough to see how far this disease has spread already."

It is believed the disease was brought into the county by ash trees imported from abroad.

The Government has imposed a ban on further ash tree imports and some 100,000 trees have already been destroyed across the country – with more suspected cases emerging on a daily basis.

DEADLY: Ban has been issued on ash tree imports

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) South East regional director Robin Edwards said: "We are pleased the Government has acted and imposed a ban on imported ash trees."

But Labour MEP for the South East Peter Skinner said: "Unfortunately the Government has been asleep on the job. It ignored the Forestry Commission's warning there was no money to tackle tree disease, and cut its cash by 25 per cent."

Some 129,000 hectares of ash trees are planted across Britain, with thousands in Kent.

PEST CUTS FOREST DOWN TO SIZE

MORE than 2,000 trees and hedgerow trees have been chopped down, inspected and chipped by inspectors trying to eradicate Britain's first outbreak of Asian longhorn beetle.

The bug can quickly decimate huge areas of woodland and it's believed the Paddock Wood infestation was caused by the insects arriving on board delivery lorries with products from abroad.

The insects are highly effective at destroying trees; they burrow deep inside, lay their young and leave to take up residence in another trunk. The offspring then eat their way out, the trees quickly dying from the internal damage.

A fast and efficient method of ridding woodland of the beetle is cutting down the surrounding trees to eliminate their chance of spreading

The job of wiping out the Paddock Wood infestation, the first in the country, is down to the Food and Environment Research Agency.

A Fera spokesman said: "Around 2,000 trees and hedgerow trees have come down in the area."

Just a couple of months ago, 1,300 were brought down, but the zone was expanded. The agency is now confident it has the problem under control, but regular surveys will continue for years to come.

The spokesman added: "The felling operation has finished and we are now setting pheromone traps up to catch any beetles that may still be there.

"The area will be surveyed for the next four years so we can be sure we have controlled this outbreak."

CRITTER: Asian longhorn beetle

TRANSPORT

Two-tier road tax concerns

IT HAS been claimed government officials are considering charging motorists who only used local roads a lower rate of Vehicle Excise Duty than those who use motorways.

But there are concerns smaller roads like the A2 and A20 could become congested.

The Association of British Drivers pointed to difficulties with the technology required, bureaucracy, and unfairness.

Kent spokesman Ian Taylor said: "This system would drive all the present motorway traffic on to the A-roads. Imagine the lorries using Dover and the other ports avoiding the motorways to save on tax.

"And then add in all the cars and vans using urban routes and it will be a disaster. Drivers would have no incentive to use the motorways – they would just want to save money, which is completely understandable."

Some motoring groups predict motorway traffic would slump by at least a third.

Claims of the new system emerged as the Government struggles to make up falls in revenues from Vehicle Excise Duty.

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REMEMBRANCE

Stand shoulder to shoulder with our heroes as Poppy Appeal is launched

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THIS year's Poppy Appeal aims to raise a staggering £42 million to help the thousands of service men and women who have put their lives on the line in conflicts past and present.

And 2012 is even more special, with Remembrance Day falling on Sunday, November 11.

Remembrance – or Armistice – Day marks the signing of the Armistice, officially ending World War One, which occurred at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

It is usually held on the Sunday closest to November 11, except for special years such as this when it falls on the actual anniversary.

To mark this important date each year, the Royal British Legion – which provides help and welfare to serving troops in Afghanistan and other trouble spots, and the ex-service community and their families – holds its Poppy Appeal.

It was officially launched this week by veterans from conflicts past and present, who pinned a wave of large poppies onto County Hall in Maidstone. They called on people in Kent to honour the fallen and help pay for the care of the injured and their families, by pinning on a poppy.

DONATIONS: Veterans and their families at the County Hall launch, back row, from left Nicola Seager, Nikki Wickham, Lee Wickham, Paul McEwan, Nathan Dodsworth, Julie Dodsworth; in front are Steven Seager and Ethan McEwan

Last year, the county's Legion raised a record £1,339,254, which helped to pay for grants – including one to a homeless former member of the Navy to pay for bed linen and food to help settle him into new lodgings.

Another grant was to an ex-serviceman who suffered a knee injury in Iraq, to contribute towards a downstairs bathroom and bedroom.

Community fundraiser for the Legion's county branch, Clare Saunders, said the organisation had responded to more than 1,600 requests for help from veterans in the last year alone.

"This number is likely to grow in light of the current conflicts," she said. "More than £1.7m is spent each week on the Legion's work to help our Armed Forces family, that's £90m a year, answering more than 165,000 calls for help, so every penny the people of Kent generously give to our appeal is vitally important.

"Please stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve by wearing a poppy this Remembrancetide. The Armed Forces and their families are pinning their hopes on you."

She said the Legion had supported the veterans who launched the appeal at County Hall this week.

"It is through money raised from our annual Poppy Appeal that we were able to offer them the support they have needed to help put their lives back on track," she said.

Remembrance services and parades will be held across the county next weekend including the two-minute silence. See next week's edition of KoS for your guide to events.

A LAND OF RED

GREENHITHE'S local branch of the Royal British Legion has launched the Real Poppy Campaign ahead of 2014's centenary of the start of World War One.

It involves distributing packs of poppy seeds in the community to be planted in time for the anniversary of the war.

The campaign has won support from the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, and the Prime Minister.

In a statement, the Greenhithe Legion said: "If these seeds were planted in 2014, with a little basic gardening, by 2018 we truly will have planted our towns and our land red."

MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson added: "This promises to be a very moving tribute to the bravery and sacrifice our national troops made for us nearly 100 years ago, and I hope communities will give their full support to bring this vision to life."

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POLICE

Who heads the field in race to be Police and Crime Commissioner?

There are just two weeks to go until Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner is elected. And the winner in the race for office is far from a forgone conclusion. Kent's political map may be dominated by the Conservative Party, but disillusionment over national government and the very real likelihood of a small turnout means traditional result patterns could be ripped apart. The power is firmly with voters as they prepare to go to the polls. Chief reporter **Marijke Cox** reflects on who could land the £85,000 job.

Name: Ann Barnes Party: Independent

PERHAPS one of the more high profile candidates and a frontrunner, having previously chaired the Kent Police Authority (KPA) for six years.

Her experience working with the Chief Constable through KPA as well as being deputy chair of the National Association of Police Authorities stands her in good stead.

However, the big question is does the wider public know who she is? The chances are in the privacy of the polling booth, those whose name appears alongside a major recognised party could be the ones who benefit the most.

Name: Dai Liyanage Party: Independent

AN independent, he has a strong political background, as former Lib Dem Mayor of Medway and a Lib Dem councillor for Kent County Council, Medway Council and Gillingham Borough Council. He claims to be the "only true independent PCC candidate in Kent and Medway".

Mr Liyanage is a former member of KPA and a police recruitment consultant. His outspoken views, including that the public should become 'have-a-go-heroes', has seen his name in the headlines, and his background as Mayor could see him attract votes in Medway.

But being an independent – and a lesser-known one than Ann Barnes – makes it unlikely he will secure victory.

Name: Craig Mackinlay Party: Conservative

THE most likely candidate to win, he is not only a Tory in a traditionally blue county, but he boasts a resumé that stands him in good stead too.

A magistrate and chartered accountant, Mr Mackinlay is also a Medway councillor and former member of KPA.

He may be hot favourite, but even the Tories are no longer safe in Kent. A sensational win by Ukip in local elections in Tunbridge Wells in May has hinted that disillusioned Conservatives are looking at other options.

Name: Steve Uncles Party: English Democrats

REPRESENTING the far-right, he is something of a rank outsider in these elections. Unlikely to attract disillusioned moderate Tories – who will feel more comfortable with Ukip – he also comes up short with his experience of policing. His biography lists Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and a community police liaison gold Duke of Edinburgh award among his police experience.

However, with a small turnout, traditionally minority parties can look to make gains.

Name: Piers Wauchope Party: Ukip

A STRONG contender for Tory votes, he has already shown his worth when he stripped the popular Tory leader of true blue Tunbridge Wells Borough Council of his seat in May's local elections.

He has 27 years' experience as a criminal barrister. He also served as a Tory London borough councillor in Camden. Do not under estimate his chances here – he could easily spring a real surprise.

Name: Harriet Yeo Party: Labour

LABOUR has traditionally struggled in Kent to get a cross-county following. It has pockets of support, but even at the height of Tony Blair's popularity the county did not turn its back on its blue roots. To win this will be a tough task.

With no Lib Dem candidate, those left of centre are likely to plump for her, but its difficult to see her picking up sufficient second choice votes should they come into play.

An Ashford councillor, she is also chair of the party's National Executive Committee.

While victory is perhaps unlikely, it will provide a strong signal if Labour's much-touted revival in the county is indeed under way.

■ **The election takes place on Thursday, November 15, from 7am-10pm.**

THE RUNNERS: Our mocked up image shows the candidates, clockwise from top left: Dai Liyanage, Piers Wauchope, Steve Uncles, Craig Mackinlay, Harriet Yeo and Ann Barnes

See www.kentnews.co.uk for more information on the candidates' pledges, FAQs, and a guide to the entire process.

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CAMPAIGN

Estuary airport plans are 'ill-thought out, ill-conceived and unaffordable'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AN AIRPORT in the Thames Estuary is unnecessary, too costly, in the wrong location, and damaging to the environment.

That's the message from town hall chiefs in Medway to the Government's transport select committee.

The parliamentary group opened its own examination into aviation in September in response to the launch of the independent commission chaired by economist Sir Howard Davies – set up by the Government and unlikely to report its findings before the next General Election in 2015.

Chair of the transport committee, Louise Ellman MP, said the strategy for aviation should not be delayed further and invited the public and interested groups to submit their views.

She said this feedback would help influence the Government during the policy development process with "sensible but challenging recommendations".

In response, Medway Council, supported by Swale Borough Council, submitted a report explaining its opposition to a Thames Estuary airport, with evidence supporting its views.

TURBULENCE: Medway Council has submitted its report opposing airport plans

Drawn up by director of regeneration Robin Cooper, the submission outlines better options to the "unviable" estuary airport plan.

"The proposals to build an airport in the estuary are simply not sensible," the council stated.

"To remain competitive globally we need an airport that can be built in a timeframe that will allow us to remain competitive with our European rivals, that does not have a disastrous environmental impact, that will not require significant taxpayer subsidy, and will attract airlines.

"The proposals to build an estuary airport fail on each and every one of these criteria and are not a viable solution to the UK's future aviation needs."

The report answers a list of questions set out by the transport select committee, including how to make better use of existing airport capacity.

The council said it believed use of spare capacity in existing airports coupled with the development of smaller airports such as Manston and linked in with high-speed rail was a "much better solution" to the future of aviation.

"We believe it is essential the Government's aviation strategy must be based on practicality, affordability and common sense.

"We accept that to remain internationally competitive, the UK needs to increase aviation capacity now.

"Building an airport in the Thames Estuary, however, would be a costly mistake – costly environmentally, costly for west London, and costly for UK plc.

"Plans for an estuary airport have been made to look attractive by a number of well-designed presentations and smart soundbites, but behind the veneer is a proposal that is ill-thought out, ill-conceived and unaffordable."

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

There are currently a number of options being considered: expansion at Heathrow or Gatwick; linking up existing airports; or closing Heathrow and opening a hub airport in the Thames Estuary.

Architect Lord Foster has unveiled plans for a multi-billion pound airport on Grain, London Mayor Boris Johnson is championing a floating airport off the north Kent coast, and architects Gensler have revealed designs for 'London Britannia Airport' in the estuary, which would involve four runways tethered to the seabed.

■ This week Lord Heseltine called on David Cameron to decide within the year where to build new runways.

The Tory peer and former deputy prime minister of the Conservatives, said Mr Cameron needed to speed up the search for new airport capacity or risk the country's economic recovery.

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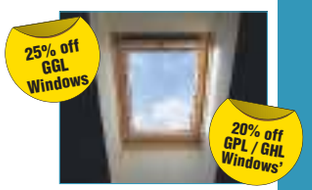

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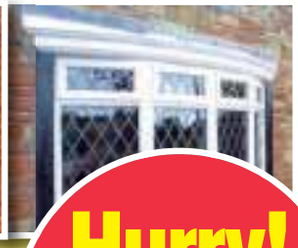

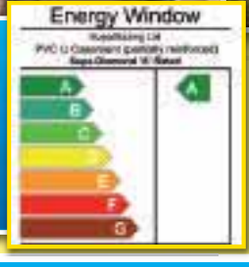

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News

TRANSPORT

Passengers facing years of disruption for station upgrade

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LONG-suffering commuters are bracing themselves for years of major rail disruption as works start at London Bridge.

Large sections of the mainline station will be shut as it is developed to cater for the new Thameslink service.

Network Rail has dropped the bombshell on beleaguered travellers, already reeling from massive annual price hikes in the cost of season tickets.

The station is getting new platforms and Britain's largest concourse. There will also be new lifts, escalators and entrances in Tooley Street and St Thomas Street.

The five-year nightmare starts in May, and will hit Southeastern's Kent passengers.

Around 55 million people annually pass through the country's oldest station, but that number is set to soar by 50 per cent once works are finished.

The £6 billion project upgrades seven miles of track and signalling, and sees the rebuilding of several bridges.

ALL CHANGE: Rail operators say the work at London Bridge will be worth all the disruption

Southeastern said: "This project will mean more trains and better journeys."

But in the meantime, it will be passengers who will suffer.

David Sidebottom, passenger director at Passenger Focus, said: "This investment and redevelopment is absolutely necessary. Most passengers should benefit from the improved station and increased capacity.

"However, communication is key. It is essential that staff are on hand to tell passengers what is going on and what the route options are."

Network Rail said platforms 14, 15 and 16, will close when the work starts and in 2014, Thameslink trains will be diverted. Southeastern trains to Charing Cross will not call at London Bridge for a year from 2015, and services to Canon Street will also not halt there during 2016-17.

Highlighting the long-term benefits, Network Rail said the result will be more access, reduced congestion, and an increase in the number of trains stopping at the station increasing from 70 to 88 a day.

Robin Gisby, managing director of network operations at Network Rail, said: "This will be the most ambitious redevelopment of any London station in a generation and one of the most technically demanding projects ever undertaken on our railway.

"Ultimately its success will be defined by the passengers who use the station. The benefits will be massive, but we need their help and support to make it happen."

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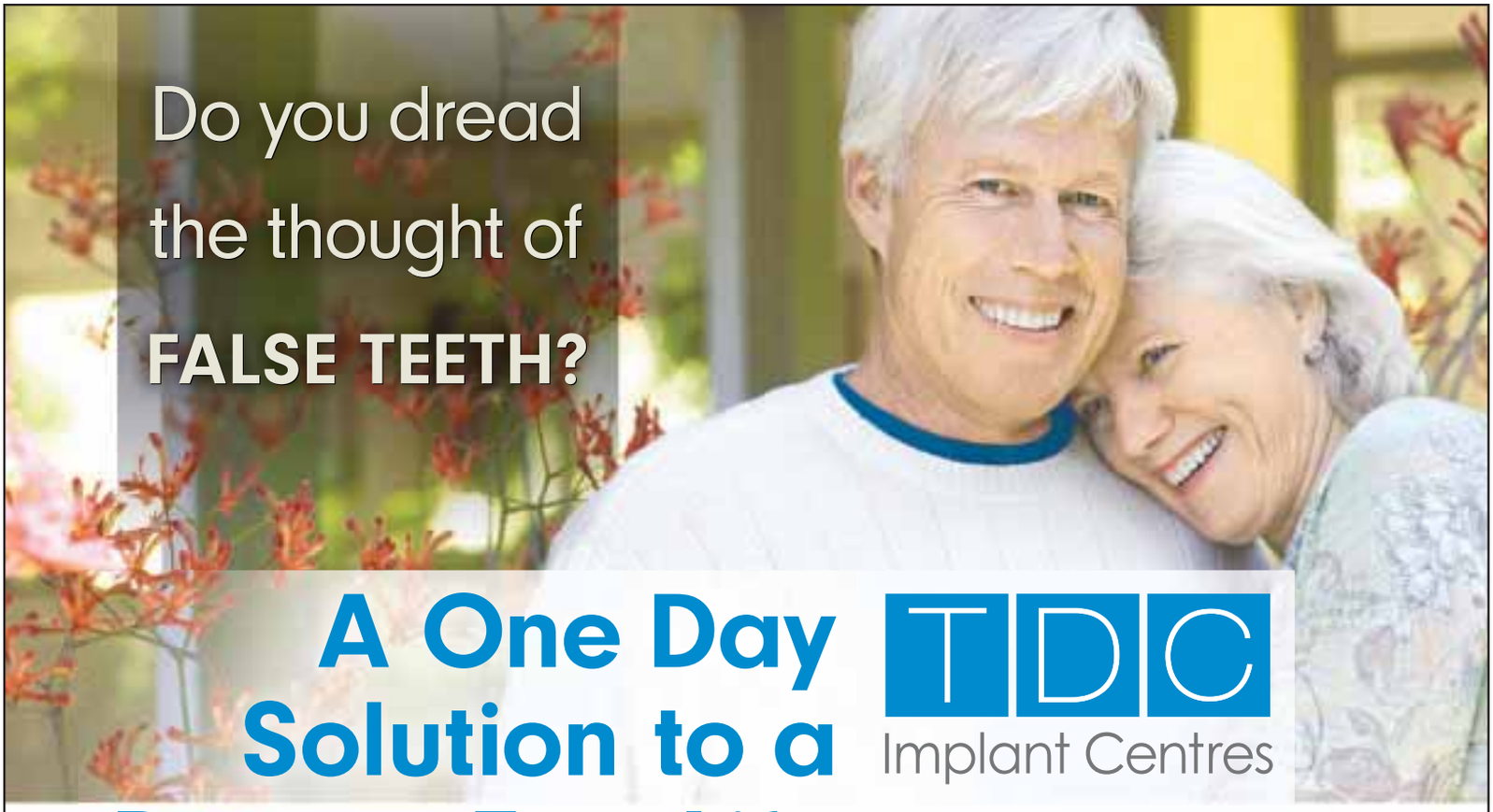

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ROAD WORKS

Planned bridge work this weekend called off

A PLANNED lane closure on the old Rochester Bridge, due to take place this weekend, has been cancelled.

Engineers had planned for the works, but crews were able to complete the essential repair works last weekend.

The works included unblocking drains, checking bridge arches, repairing a parapet hit by a vehicle and other minor repair works.

DRILL

Emergency crews in drill at power station

A MAJOR emergency drill took place around Medway Power Station on Tuesday.

Police, fire and ambulance crews were involved to test response time and emergency procedures.

The exercise is part of the site's normal emergency response training programme which runs throughout the year. Tuesday's drill lasted approximately two hours.

TRANSPORT

Motorists warned to expect weeks of delays as critical work begins on water main

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WORK on upgrading an old water main in the centre of Faversham begins on Monday, with motorists being warned of six weeks of delays and diversions.

South East Water is spending £41,000 on replacing a section of pipe in West Street. It says the work is essential to protect drinking water supplies for thousands of customers in the town, and make the piping in the area less prone to bursts.

James Smith, delivery manager for the water firm, said: "With an increasing number of bursts this water main is coming to the end of its working life and it's essential we act now to ensure our customers' water supplies are protected.

"When a burst occurs it not only causes interruptions to our customers' drinking water supplies, but also causes localised flooding and disruption to traffic while we carry out emergency repairs."

A section of the road will be temporarily closed to through traffic for the duration of the work.

Pedestrian, resident and business access will be maintained at all times.

A diversion will be clearly signposted.

Work will take place between the junctions of Tanners Street and Caslocke Street.

GO WITH THE FLOW: Work will take six weeks

Mr Smith added: "I know this work may cause disruption to residents and motorists, however, I would like to reassure the local community that we will do all we can to complete the work as quickly as possible.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank local residents, businesses and motorists in advance for their patience and cooperation while this important work takes place."

■ **Further information regarding the scheme can also be found at www.southeastwater.co.uk/faversham.**

EVENT

Catwalk leaves Wedding Show visitors purring

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SPECTACULAR catwalk displays were among the highlights of The Wedding Show which took place at the Dover Cruise Terminal.

Organised by Archant KOS Media, the event last Sunday attracted hundreds of brides and grooms looking for inspiration for their big day.

Exhibitors included cake makers, photographers, jewellers, dress and menswear retailers and designers, while a Champagne bar provided another attraction.

Musicians performed in the café area of the venue.

The catwalk show featured outfits for brides, grooms and bridesmaids, with models showcasing the wedding wear to the accompaniment of a wide range of popular and classical music – including Adele's theme song to the latest James Bond film, Skyfall.

Its climax was an all-singing and all-dancing routine featuring the entire cast of models, performing the Ben E King classic Stand By Me.

Outside the venue was an unusual way of getting to the wedding itself, a red London double-decker bus, along with stretch limousines for the hen night.

Elli Antoniou, of bridal gown and wedding specialist Teokath of London, was one of the exhibitors.

"The fashion show was great – a real highlight and it showed off some marvellous creations," she said.

"The models were amazing. I went backstage and the atmosphere was great there as well as on stage.

"It was a bit chaotic, but you expect that. There was a lot of banter flying about among the models, they were all having a great time and it really showed when they took to the stage."

Karina O'Donnell, from bridal gown company Pumpkins and Dragonflies, said the event was a great chance for those who work in the wedding business to meet brides.

"You get the opportunity to talk to them and give them help when it comes to their forthcoming wedding," she said.

"You can inspire them with ideas and make sure they get the very best treatment and chose the dress that they know is the right one for them."

Another exhibitor was Wedding Easels – the UK's only company offering bespoke hand-crafted wooden easels to display details such as table plans on the wedding day.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase our unique product," said David Martin.

Visitor Diane Forrester, from Folkestone, said: "It is really great to see all the variety of stands.

"I'm helping to plan a friend's wedding and I've now got loads of ideas I just never would have thought of if I hadn't come along."

STUNNING: Wedding dress designed by Teokath was part of the catwalk show

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News

COMMUNITY

Radio station marks sixth anniversary with events to celebrate and remember

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A COMMUNITY radio station saw smiles mixed with tears this week as it celebrated its sixth anniversary – and remembered two of its popular hosts.

BRFM first hit the airwaves on October 30, 2006, delivering a diet of chat and music from its studio in Oak Lane, Minster.

Staffed by volunteers, it relies on the generosity of the community to survive.

But it was dealt a huge blow earlier this year when two of its most popular presenters passed away within a month of one another.

Matthew Judd, production co-ordinator, explains: "Dan Bransby and Sam Hughes were at the radio station for many years and have been sorely missed by their colleagues.

LISTEN IN: BRFM has secured its second community licence, but the year started on a sad note with the deaths of two popular presenters

"Several events have been organised at BRFM to remember them both."

Mr Bransby was just 59 and had been fighting bowel cancer.

But despite the sad news, the radio station has now secured its second community licence and held a special celebration this week to thank all the dedicated staff who have contributed to its success.

Mr Judd added: "It's great to be celebrating another year of BRFM, and we all want to say thanks to our listeners who tune in each day and have supported us over the past six years."

Among its regular programming is the monthly advice surgery hosted by Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson.

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UNITED: Ashley, left, Shane Byrne and Taylor Rose got together for a lap of Brands Hatch

MOTORSPORT

Trio in 'Bootgate' saga meet at Brands Hatch after online 'manhunt'

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

THE three main protagonists in what motorsport fans dubbed 'Bootgate' were all smiles when they finally met at the scene of the drama this week.

The saga was sparked when Sheppey race ace Shane 'Shakey' Byrne celebrated winning his third British Superbike crown by hurling a shoe into his adoring fans, as he soaked up the cheers on the winner's podium.

TV footage appeared to show a scuffle which ended with a man walking away with the boot, while a boy was left apparently in tears.

'Bootgate' was born. A campaign emerged on the internet via the likes of Facebook and Twitter. It claimed the man had barged the boy and snatched the boot, and sought to name and shame him,

However, when the man got in touch with this newspaper, calling himself only Ashley, he protested his innocence, and said the situation had got so bad he was receiving death threats and was afraid to leave his house.

Then the father of the young boy, 10-year-old Taylor Rose, contacted us to say his boy hadn't been barged and that no-one was to blame.

And this week, after we put them all in touch with one-another, they met at Brands for a special lap around the track with Shane Byrne at the controls.

The racer said: "After the final race it seemed to be a bit of a pickle. I saw on Twitter that an alleged incident happened, but the priority for me was always to track down the young boy and turn it around.

"As it turns out it was blown out of proportion and poor Ashley was wrongly accused but it has been great to meet both Taylor and Ashley and for us all to have a good day at Brands Hatch.

"We all feel that 'Bootgate' is boxed off now. We had a wonderful crowd of fans at the final round and I feel happy that we have been able to have a happy ending."

Ashley, who did not want to reveal his surname, said: "The first I heard about the pictures on Twitter and Facebook was when a friend saw it online.

"I would never have taken the boot from a child, so it has been good for us to all meet. Together we have had a good day with Shakey and we can now put it behind us."

Taylor's father Jason added: "I was ecstatic with the day; it was absolutely fantastic for Taylor and my family.

"I want to thank Shane, the British Superbike Championship and Brands Hatch for the support they have given my son. He is absolutely beaming after his experience.

"It was also good to meet Ashley; I have never blamed him for what happened. We have all been able to make Taylor's day and that was fantastic."

An excited Taylor said: "I had really good fun. Shakey is my favourite rider so this was really cool. I can't wait to tell my friends."

ARMED FORCES

After more than 30 years on the high seas, Navy's longest serving woman steps down

THE longest serving woman in the history of the Royal Navy has officially retired from active service after 34 years.

Warrant Officer First Class Susan Morgan MBE, from East Malling, joined the Wrens in 1978, serving on five overseas postings and three ships as a Royal Navy Police Officer.

Now retiring at 52, WO1 Morgan's last appointment was lead mediator and investigator for equality and inclusion issues at the Royal Navy Command Headquarters in Portsmouth.

This was pioneering work for the branch and saw her awarded the MBE in 2010.

She joined the Royal Navy at the earliest opportunity – at age 17 years and three quarters – the idea then being that recruits had to be 18-years-old upon completing their basic training.

"I have had the most incredible career working with inspiring and amazing people," she said.

"With a vocation of joining the police, establishing a career which included travelling the world was a dream come true.

RETIRING: WO1 Susan Morgan joined the Royal Navy 34 years ago, when she was aged just 17

"Naturally, in some ways I will be sad to leave, however I have been preparing for life outside for the last two years, receiving advice and bespoke resettlement courses, so I'm now looking forward to new challenges and the next chapter of running my own business."

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News

SOCIAL

Problem estate gets its liberty back as hard-line measures drive out the unruly

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SINCE the last brick was put into place, the Liberty Park estate in Wainscott has experienced something of a baptism of fire.

A minority of those living on the estate decided that rather than respect thy neighbour, they would instead indulge in antisocial behaviour.

And, as so often happens, once it begins it is easy to snowball.

Before long, the estate was making headlines for all the wrong reasons, with residents saying it was no longer safe to go outside and complaining about gangs of roaming youngsters.

It caught many by surprise. The estate is much like any other which seems to lurk in towns across Kent – a blend of family homes and social housing, with price tags ranging from £160,000 to £260,000.

But the idyllic life advertised on the sales brochures were being threatened by the troublemakers.

Yet, within the space of just a few months, an impressive effort by a range of community groups have finally seen it turn its fortunes around.

It may not be quite perfect just yet, but in terms of where it was just this summer there is much reason to be optimistic.

The key players in tackling the issues were the local police, council, developers and the housing association which handled the social housing on the estate.

And an essential step was the introduction of a dispersal order.

That allowed police to break up any gathering of two or more known troublemakers, banning them from returning within 24-hours.

The ban, which came into force at the beginning of June, ended at the end of August.

Despite some vocal concerns the issues remain, in recent weeks a calm has descended.

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ISSUES: Liberty Park was hit by troublemakers

A spokesman for West Kent Housing Association said: "We and our partners have been working hard to prevent further incidents.

"Since the dispersal zone there has been a significant reduction in reported cases of antisocial behaviour on the estate and in the last few weeks, no reported cases."

Medway Council worked with the police through the Community Safety Partnership, attending daily meetings to discuss issues that require quick responses.

A council spokesman explained: "It was here that joint monitoring and actions were agreed. This led to the installation of two temporary CCTV cameras in positions identified by the partnership."

The spokesman for West Kent Housing added: "The result is residents are now saying they feel it is a much better place to live."

Police agree the dispersal order was a dramatic, but necessary step to take.

A spokesman said: "Since one of the people responsible for a significant amount of antisocial behaviour was re-housed, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of incidents.

"In the four-month period between February and May 2012, there had been 106 calls about antisocial behaviour at the Liberty Park estate.

"That is why Kent Police and Medway Council agreed to implement the short-term measure of a dispersal area. During the time the dispersal area was active, there were just 22 calls."

Although it is no longer a dedicated dispersal area, police say they are continuing to work to keep the situation under control. There continues to be a dedicated police team for Liberty Park and work is under way with partners to engage with the young people on the estate.

Another initiative saw Frindsbury Parish Council secure £45,000 funding to enable it to create a play area on the site, with money coming from Olympic legacy funding and a chunk from housing developer Crest Nicholson.

A public meeting is now scheduled to take place early this month to update residents and to ensure problems that still exist are tackled.

Genette Pinwill, head of housing at the housing association added: "It's starting to feel that we have really turned a corner on Liberty Park.

"We are seeing more positive feedback and more engagement from all residents."

EASING THE SITUATION

- Regular meetings between police and housing groups and local residents
- Community litter picks
- Fun days during school summer holidays
- Neighbourhood Watch groups established
- Games area set up
- CCTV put in place
- Troublemakers identified and directly approached
- Regular youth sessions and events
- Warnings and legal action for those breaking tenancy agreements

CRIME

Cops hunt duo after a teenager is attacked

A 17-year-old has been left with a fractured cheekbone and an eye injury after he was viciously set upon in an unprovoked attack on Sheppey.

Police are now appealing for witnesses following the attack at around 2.15am on October 13 at a nightclub car park in The Broadway in Minster. The attackers are both described as white with foreign accents.

FIREWORKS

Disgraced sports star torched on bonfire

AN EFFIGY of disgraced cycling legend Lance Armstrong was torched during a bonfire parade in Edenbridge last night (Saturday).

The town has become famous for making its Guy a famous face, In previous years, victims have included footballer Mario Balotelli, comedian Russell Brand and actress Katie Price. Armstrong was stripped of his Tour de France titles over doping allegations.

COURT

Two men face court for attempted robbery

TWO people have been charged in connection with an alleged attempted robbery in London Road, Rainham, last Friday, October 26.

A 16-year-old-boy was assaulted by two men who demanded his mobile phone between 10.30pm and 10.50pm.

Peter Barnes, 20, of Corkwell Street in Chatham and a 17-year-old boy have both been charged with attempted robbery.

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News

CRIME

Manager used school bank account to pay Merc deposit

A SCHOOL manager who used her employer's bank account for the deposit on a Mercedes-Benz car and to pay off her husband's credit card bills has been jailed for three years.

Sandra Ross, 64, of Stone Croft in Meopham, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court after previously pleading guilty to 23 counts of fraud following a joint investigation between Kent Police and Medway Council into the misappropriation of funds at Temple Mill Primary School.

Ross, who was business manager at the school in Cliffe Road, Strood, was arrested on March 9, 2011, following a number of unauthorised payments from the school's account, totalling £212,166.

The fraud was discovered after Medway Council carried out an internal audit of the school's bank account, which identified a number of unusual payments.

Ross, who had access to Temple Hill's debit card and made the majority of the school's purchases, had been using its bank account for her own ends as far back as 2005.

FRAUDSTER: Sandra Ross, 64

When she was questioned by the police, Ross admitted to using the school bank account to fund her mother's care home bill. She has paid back £41,656.27 to the school – leaving £170,509.73 unaccounted for.

Police found that Ross was unable to provide documentation for a number of unauthorised transactions made from the school's account, which included a deposit for a new Mercedes-Benz, a laptop, clothing, and furniture. There was also a payment made to her husband's credit card as well as payments for personal decorating services, stone masonry, a skip hire company, and payments to Bupa and Age Concern for family members.

Ross, who has been sacked by the school, was amending data on the monthly documents to the council to hide what she was doing.

Det Con Kim Jordan, said: "This investigation was long and protracted due to the multiple transactions that were under investigation and the time period during which these offences were committed.

"Ross was in a position of trust, which she totally disregarded for her own personal financial gain.

"She deprived Temple Mill Primary School and its pupils of much-needed funds and every effort will now be made to reclaim the outstanding money. I hope the verdict acts as a deterrent for others."

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TRANSPORT

Dartford Crossing motorists to face hefty fines under proposals for new free-flow toll system

By Marijke Cox
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DRIVERS using the Dartford Crossing could be fined more than £100 if they fail to pay the free-flow toll charge once introduced in 2014.

The Highways Agency has launched two public consultations; one setting out how the charges will operate and the other how they will be enforced.

The free-flow system will allow motorists to travel through the crossing without having to stop at barriers and hand over payment.

Currently, the stop-start system creates a bottleneck and the road network has become a congestion hot spot costing the economy £40m every year through disrupted business.

Under the new system, which would use camera technology, drivers will be able to pre-pay the fee – currently £2, but due to increase to £2.50 in 2014 – or pay afterwards.

Plans out for public consultation propose a hefty fine for drivers who fail to pay the fee.

A Highways Agency spokesman said road users would be encouraged to pay the charge in advance of using the crossing, and for those who didn't, they would have to pay by midnight that same day.

Under the proposals, those who failed to do so would pay the standard charge plus 20 per cent on the following day.

After this, the planned penalty charge for non-payment would be £70, with a reduced rate of £35 if paid within 14 days.

If the penalty was not paid within 28 days this would increase to £105.

The Highways Agency is seeking public views on the plans.

Senior project manager Nigel Gray said: "The Dartford Crossing is a crucial piece of national infrastructure that brings economic benefits to the region and the whole country.

"We understand how frustrated motorists are and that is why tackling congestion here is an absolute priority."

Last month motorists saw charges at the crossing rise from £1.50 to £2 for a car, from £2 to £2.50 for lorries and £3.70 to £5 for heavy goods vehicles.

A further increase will be implemented in two years.

The Government says the controversial increases will help pay for free-flowing tolls, due to be put in place in October 2014.

When the first tunnel was built in 1969, the then-Labour government promised to scrap tolls when enough money had been raised to pay off the costs, which was thought to be in 2003.

But this has failed to be implemented under any government since.

MP for Dartford, Gareth Johnson, welcomed the future introduction of free-flowing tolls, but vowed to continue to fight to get the tolls scrapped in their entirety.

Roads Minister Stephen Hammond said removing the barriers would improve traffic flow for all motorists and cut congestion.

"That means the way payment is collected will change," he said.

"We need to make sure we have steps in place to allow enforcement against drivers who do not pay their road user charge.

"How and what will happen needs to be decided and that is exactly what the Enforcement Regulations consultation will do."

Discounts will remain in place for those who set up an account and pay in advance and for those that qualify for the local residents' discount scheme.

The consultation is being launched on Monday and the public will have until January 28 to make comments.

■ **See the charging scheme documents at www.highways.gov.uk or Dartford Borough Council offices. For the enforcement regulations see www.dft.gov.uk.**

BLACKWALL FEE PLAN TO PAY FOR NEW £600M TUNNEL

A HIGH PRICE: Dartford Crossing

MOTORISTS using the Blackwall Tunnel in south-east London could face a £2 charge under proposals set out by Transport for London to fund a new road tunnel under the Thames. The popular route for Kent commuters, keen to avoid congestion around the Dartford tolls, could see charges introduced from 2021, to help foot a £600 million tunnel at Silvertown – linking the docks with the Greenwich peninsula – and a £150m vehicle ferry at Gallions Reach.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Discover the hidden stories behind the old Kentish place names

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MANY people believe the town of Gravesend is so named because that's where the graves ended during the great plague that killed thousands of people in London.

But the disease struck in 1665, and the town's name was around for about half a century before that.

So no-one is exactly sure how the name came about, and that's the case with many towns in Kent.

However, a team of experts on the subject are set to give a talk this weekend on the origins of some of the county's more unusual place names.

The one-day conference will be held at the Rochester Information Centre, High Street, Rochester, on Saturday, November 3, from 10.30am.

Speaker Paul Cullen of the Bristol Centre for Linguistics at the University of the West of England, knows a thing or two about the movement of place names.

His talk, called Locative Surnames On The Move: When Kentish Names Leave Kent And When Newcomers Arrive, will describe how some town names, such as Maidstone and Canterbury, moved around the country to become surnames.

And Richard Jones, of the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester, gives a talk on The Case For Northminster And Other Thanet Mythologies.

Liz Finn, from the Kent History and Library Centre, will discuss The Canterbury Cartae Antiquae Project: A Major Source Of Names.

Mr Cullen will then give the concluding talk of the day, Place-names And Boundaries, from Goudhurst to North Woolwich, before taking questions.

Mr Cullen said: "People are fascinated by place names and where they came from.

"The names of most of the towns and villages of Kent were coined in the early Anglo-Saxon period, in the Old English language before French influence. We rely on the evidence of medieval spellings in order to interpret them. Some are more straightforward than others.

"Sevenoaks, recorded as Seouenaca in the 12th century, simply means 'seven oak-trees'

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Paul Cullen, left, will speak on the history of Kentish place names

"Canterbury, from Cantwaraburg in the 8th century, means 'the stronghold of the people of Kent' and in Old English as cant-ware 'Kent-people' plus burh 'stronghold'. As such it was the capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent.

"Another unusual one is Cranbrook, recorded as Cranebroca in the 11th century, meaning 'crane stream'. The crane has long been extinct in England, but place-names testify to its presence in Anglo-Saxon times.

"A fairly obvious one is Sheppey, recorded as Scepeig in the eighth century, which means 'sheep island'.

"Tenterden, recorded as Tentwardenn in the 13th century, means 'the woodland-pasture of the people of Thanet'. Pigs were fattened on acorns and beechmast in the Weald, sometimes at a very considerable distance from the manors to which they belonged – imagine driving pigs from Thanet to Tenterden.

"A few older names coined in the Celtic language, before the fifth-century arrival of the Anglo Saxons, also survive.

"For instance Dover, recorded as Dubris in the fourth century, means 'the waters', and Reculver, recorded as Regulbium in the fifth century, means 'the great headland'.

"We know from historical records that Canterbury was earlier called Durovernum, which means 'the walled town in the alder swamp'.

"We also have names in which an earlier British name combines with an Old English word, like Dartford, recorded as Darenteford in the 11th century, which means 'ford over the river Darent'.

"And Chatham, recorded as Cetham in the 9th century, means 'village in the wood'."

"I have also examined Kentish surnames which have strayed beyond the county.

"For example, why is Canterbury a Dorset surname? What is Maidstone doing in Norfolk? And some relative newcomers into Kent which suggest such characteristically Kentish surnames including Tapsell, Ayerst, Lowdell and Missing, are in fact well disguised intruders from other counties."

The event has been organised by the Kent Archaeological Society, you can visit the website www.kentarchaeology.org.uk to find out more.

OPINION

Reminder of all they sacrificed

Clare Saunders, fundraiser for the Royal British Legion, highlights how the Poppy Appeal helps ex-service personnel and their families

I was at the launch of Kent Poppy Appeal last week, where the theme for the event was 'Service families pin their hopes on you'.

A clever play on words, as we each pin on our poppies in remembrance at this time of year... but, what does it really mean?

By the end of the year the Royal British Legion will have responded to more than 1,600 calls for help from our service men and women in Kent alone.

Around 30 people each week will have decided enough is enough – I need help.

It is the Legion they turn to, and it is money from the Poppy Appeal that helps them to get their lives back on track.

I am in the lucky position to meet with some of our service men and women, and to hear their stories and to share in their success and delight as they rebuild their lives.

But it is often their families who move us the most – because you don't have to have a service background to appreciate their stories – you simply have to understand the love and care families share.

Uniquely, the Legion helps all generations of the Armed Forces community, and their families.

So I was pleased we not only had six veterans, but also some of the wives, a mother, and a son, to help launch the Poppy Appeal in Kent this year.

Every one of the veterans at the launch have received support from the Legion to help change their lives, and without exception each of them will proudly tell you that they could only have done it with the support of their family.

To help mark the start of Kent Poppy Appeal, the six veterans and their families, symbolically 'pinned' large poppies onto the front of County Hall in Maidstone, but it was through their media interviews the true story of the Poppy Appeal was told.

"Sorry, I can't help the tears", said Nicola Seager, mother to young ex-Army man Steven, as she told her side of the story to a radio station.

She talked about discovering Steven passed out on the sofa surrounded by bottles and the fear of not knowing what to do, and how to cope with Steven as he was struggling with post traumatic stress disorder.

It was hard to see Nicola so upset and to hear her traumatic story – but it was great to listen when she talked about how the Legion provided Steven with practical and financial support and gave them so much "love and care".

Service families pin their hopes on you

But what struck me the most was when Nicola said she couldn't thank the Legion enough for giving her son back to her.

She explained: "To have lost Steven when he was out in Iraq on Ops would have been devastating, but it would have been just as bad if we had lost him after he came home."

Nicola Seager stood alongside her son to be presented with one of the first poppies at the Kent Poppy Appeal Launch last week, along with all the other veterans and their family members.

They all looked so proud as the poppies were pinned on.

Families that have shared highs and lows, each with a different story to tell, but united in their message for this year's Poppy Appeal that 'Service families pin their hopes on you'.

KOS COMMENT

Rising parking fees are one of life's certainties

THERE are three things certain in life; death, taxes and parking charges.

And even if you're one of the lucky ones to have seen parking fees stay the same where you live, it's inevitable that a rise is around the corner.

It's easy to see why traders get so fed-up since they are battling not only a recession but competition with out-of-town shopping centres.

Butbroke councils responsible for maintaining car parks have to find the money somewhere. Do they keep fees low and plug funding gaps by cutting budgets elsewhere? Or do they risk hitting retailers by pushing up charges?

All we can do is to support our high streets, no matter how frustrating these rising charges are.

Kent Show must dazzle

KENT County Show organisers have said the event will go ahead in 2013, despite July's washout which saw the show descend into a muddy mess.

They'll have to pull something really special out of the bag next year to dazzle the crowds and make sure its reputation remains intact.

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Fireworks at Leeds Castle by Oliver Mannion

IMAGES OF KENT

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Expansion not right answer

RJ CHURCH argues we need a new estuary airport (Letters, October 28). Others argue for expansion at Heathrow.

However, the first question to ask is whether we need more air capacity at all.

Those in favour often assume that more air travel is good for the economy, and therefore expanding UK air travel capacity is necessary to meet increasing demand.

But most flights are for leisure, not business, and we currently have a £15 billion tourism deficit. Therefore, we should impose a significant increase in air taxes, which would lead to a big drop in demand, particularly for frivolous trips, such as stag weekends in Eastern Europe

This would reduce the tourism deficit and see more people spend their money in the UK, thereby creating jobs.

It would also free up capacity for business travel, provide tax revenue and benefit the environment.

There is nothing inevitable about ever-expanding air travel. It is a choice society – and in particular, this government – has to make.

Richard Mountford, Hildenborough, Tonbridge

Airport's been done to death

THERE have been letters regarding the estuary airport ad nauseam – surely the subject is now done to death.

Correspondents forget that in this situation one man's/women's job gain, is another man's/women's job loss.

The only real winners are big business.

I'm surprised there hasn't been more fuss regarding the increase in pollution and potential destruction of wildlife that'll be caused by a new expanded airport.

Our political leaders pay lip service to saving the world, reducing our carbon footprint, and conserving fastly depleting unsustainable resources, yet their actions prove the opposite.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Sheep farming brings beauty

REGARDING movement of lambs via Ramsgate, what is the huge interest and why are the media so against it?

The BBC reported the livestock died in port, not that the RSPCA put these animals down due to their own mismanagement.

MP Laura Sandys argues against lambs being exported and then announces on Twitter she is hoping to increase export business from Thanet and Kent for business growth.

Sheep and livestock farming bring the beauty of the countryside to Kent and other counties. With no livestock farming there's no pretty countryside, only horses and ragwort along with large arable fields.

So please bring positive news from the livestock industry into your publications to help keep our countryside beautiful.

Chris Smith, by email

No place for politics at polls

NOVEMBER 15, the date on which we will have the chance to elect a police commissioner for our county, fast approaches and there are signs Kent Conservatives are beginning to panic.

How else can they explain the calumny that the one candidate who has the experience and expertise to upset their expectations is a closet Liberal Democrat?

Perhaps we should give them the benefit of the doubt and accept their assumptions are based on the fact that Liberal Democrats are supporting her campaign?

But so too are committed Conservatives and, like me, committed Labour people.

That just emphasises her claim to be politically neutral.

And how very important that she is in this election.

Ann Barnes is standing on a platform of keeping party politics out of policing, and of opposing privatisation of any core part of Kent police and further government cuts in the police service.

Conversations I have had with many people make clear their concerns that the intervention of failed or ambitious politicians is both unacceptable and dangerous.

Those who are accountable to a political party are unlikely to put the interests of those they seek to represent as a top priority, especially if the views of those who selected them and to whom they are accountable, are different.

I would not expect the Conservative candidate to agree with my views, but the least he can do is to publicly disassociate himself from the false allegations about Ann Barnes.

David Robertson, Sandwich

Revelation of 'Dumpy' level

I READ with interest your article about the tunnels under Dover Castle and the Dumpy level, until it said that no-one knows why its called 'Dumpy'.

I can enlighten you.

During my time as an officer with Kent Fire Brigade, we frequently went up to the tunnels on familiarisation visits and were aware of the secret use of 'Dumpy' level as a regional seat of government in the event of a nuclear attack.

There are at least four levels to these tunnels and at some stage these levels were designated alphabetically: A, B, C, and D. They were then given a name that corresponded to these letters; A – Annexe, B – Bastion, C – Casemates and D v Dumpy, with Dumpy being the lowest of the four levels.

I am not sure about the origins of the first three, but 'Dumpy' was indeed an acronym. it stood for Deep Underground Military Position-Yellow, which referred to its military use.

Bob Greenfield, River

Tory's views are just Gaga

CLLR Chris Wells (Letters, October 21), a warrior 'defending' marriage from being picked by all those who love each other, cites Tory views as if asking a Tory about gay rights is in any way different from asking a caveman about the latest Lady Gaga song.

Apparently striving for equality is a "trendy metropolitan" thing and tradition is a good excuse for oppression.

If members have been lost from political groups because they believe some people are simply born inferior and should just 'stop it', then why should these people be mourned?

I agree though that equal marriage should not be a pressing issue. It should just be passed without consultation or argument, because fair is fair and equal is equal.

I pay just as much tax as my heterosexual neighbour and play just as important a role.

So why should I not be afforded equal treatment?

Drew J Smith, Gillingham

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It's time to grow a firmer interest in rural ventures

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

RETAILERS should help research development into new food producing techniques, according to the man at the helm of a new bid to promote Kent's countryside industries.

Mike Bax, who is also High Sheriff of the county is heading up Rural PLC (Kent) – with the aim of maximing the impact of the rural sector – which was a company would be ranked 57th in the FTSE 100 with assets of £5.4 billion.

The formation of the new body is an innovative move to attract investment into all aspects of rural business, such as agriculture and horticulture.

Bax, chairman of the group, said: "The big anomaly is that the rural sector only gives a return on investment of around two per cent. This is compared to a return on capital of some 10 per cent for retailers. Even a small business in that sector will generate between five and 10 million pounds annually – much more than most farming businesses.

"So we have to work to create more profitability, which means investing in research and development.

"One of our objectives is to get financial commitment from those who make profits from rural produce to plough some money back into farming.

"Areas which could be approached include improving varieties of soft fruit so that they store well, smell good and taste better.

"Water is a very important issue – ways could be found to move it around between farms, so there is always an adequate supply. Storage techniques could also be improved to increase the shelf life of a product.

"It is in retailers' own interests to invest in the rural sector, as it would obviously increase the standard of the products which they are selling."

Bax said Rural PLC (Kent) was also looking to attract younger people into the industry.

"I understand the average age of a farmer in Britain is 58 – well if that is the case it is time they moved over to make way for younger people. We need to encourage the next generation," he said. "We have to make people aware that farming is a worthwhile career. There is a perception that if you work in the rural sector you need to get your hands dirty but that is not necessarily so. Marketing, management, research and development are all very important aspects of the business."

The move to bring Kent's farming businesses under one banner is to enable them to each have a louder voice when it comes to lobbying or appealing for funding.

"It is a groundbreaking approach, but it is very necessary as food is a vital primary resource," said Bax

RURAL VOICE: High Sheriff Mike Bax

Mark Lumsden-Taylor is director of finance and resources at Hadlow College, which adds business acumen to its courses in all aspects of agriculture, farming and horticulture, and is backing the project.

"Our courses link into the Rural PLC by offering vocational and practical training which will enable people to enter into work with the necessary skills and a knowledge of business," he said.

TOURISM

European cash to help encourage visitors from across the Channel

VISIT Kent and Kent County Council have successfully bid for European Union money to help deliver a £2.9 million project to increase awareness of rural tourism businesses on both sides of the Channel.

Running for three years, the drive is intended to identify fresh approaches to marketing and develop new tools, taking advantage of the latest technology, to help businesses diversify and communities to work together.

The project, called Cool Tourism, will also include detailed research into the economic impact of tourism in Kent's rural areas and identify barriers to growth.

Visit Kent and KCC joined forces with other UK and French partners to bid for the cash.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "This is a key project which will really help grow tourism and the Kent rural economy.

"The partnership project, which runs until 2015, will examine in detail the common difficulties rural tourism faces in taking its product to market. It will develop the best solutions to encourage growth and diversification to maintain and sustain the biodiversity and heritage in each of the areas.

"It will help create new networks bringing businesses and communities together and lead to specific, accessible business tools to deliver tangible results."

KCC say the cash will boost the county's tourism earnings potential.

Mark Dance, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "We are delighted to have worked with Visit Kent to drive forward this bid for Interreg European funding. It will enable us to tackle some of the underlying issues our many rural tourism businesses and communities face.

"Kent, with two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has stunning countryside and so many villages and hamlets to explore.

"There are great opportunities for visitors throughout the year. Kent is a perfect destination for everyone whether they are seeking total rest and relaxation, looking for healthy activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding, exploring our hidden treasures or learning new skills on the growing number of bushcraft, and arts and crafts opportunities.

"Working in partnership with our existing rural networks as well as with other areas tackling similar issues will benefit us all."

COOL TOURISM: Visit Kent's Sandra Matthews-Marsh

GROWTH

Basepoint to help more businesses with discount

BASEPOINT Business Centres is pledging support to start-ups and SMEs in an attempt to help sustain economic growth, with a special discount offer.

Budding entrepreneurs and local SMEs have from now until Wednesday, December 12, to sign up and claim a 12 per cent discount on all license fees and services at any centres in Canterbury, Dartford, Chatham, Northfleet and Folkestone, which will last for 12 months.

Brian Andrews, Basepoint's executive director, said: "Our ethos at Basepoint remains in supporting start-ups and giving them some of the advantages that larger businesses enjoy.

"As part of our annual promotion, we want to make it even more affordable for SMEs to grow with a special autumn/winter incentive offering a further 12 per cent off all our license fees and services. We continue to offer our original 'easy in, easy out' license agreements, which means start-ups don't have to worry about long term rental or lease arrangements."

Recently, Basepoint Dartford held an event in celebration of its achievements during its first year of operation attended by 160 people.

These included: Brian Andrews, executive director of Basepoint Centres; Cllr Ann Allen, Mayor of Dartford; and representative of grant making body The ACT Foundation, Derek Joseph.

Allison Sweeney, centre manager, said: "In the first month we welcomed 27 businesses.

"We now have more than 70 businesses on site with just a few offices remaining, which just goes to show that businesses in Kent are thriving.

"We enjoyed a party with hog roast, candy floss, and cloudy lemonade.

"It was a wonderful day and we would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year and we look forward to welcoming new businesses to the centre in the future."

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County needs to make the most of new opportunities as recession is finally over

OPTIMISTIC: The FSB's Roger House says things are looking up but there is still a long way to go

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE end of the double-dip recession has been mirrored by the latest survey into how Kent companies are faring.

And the news is that business confidence is on the up says The Federation of Small Businesses.

Over the third quarter Britain's gross domestic product – which measures the value of everything produced in the country – grew by one percent.

This figure was made up of increases in the production sector by 1.1 per cent and service industries by 1.3 per cent. However construction fell 2.5 per cent.

Officially the GDP of the UK fell by 6.3 per cent in 2009 – it's lowest ebb since the recession started in 2008. It has now regained around half that all-time recent low.

The county's business community say the figures from the Office of National Statistics are reflected by the results of the FSB Kent Small Business Autumn 2012 Barometer in which 44 per cent of respondents had increased their sales when compared to the previous year.

Almost one in three small firms in Kent reported increased profits and more than one in five had taken on more staff; helping to relieve unemployment in the county.

Nationally, the Olympic Games made a small contribution to the upturn in figures – leading some analysts to say the increase in productivity may not be sutainable. But Kent figures say the event had no effect on 80 per cent of small businesses in the county, only 2.5 per cent gained sales while the Olympics had a detrimental effect on 17.5 per cent of small firms.

Roger House, FSB chairman in Kent and Medway, said: "The economy is going in the right direction, with our FSB Barometer results indicating almost one in four (38 per cent) small businesses forecast better prospects in 2013.

"There is still a long way to go – growth has flatlined in the last year, so Chancellor George Osborne must use the autumn statement to sustain recovery. Small firms want to grow and if this is to happen they need confidence in the economy.

"The Government is moving in the right direction by announcing the small business bank, but we believe that also extending the National Insurance Contributions holiday to all micro firms across the UK would add £1.3 billion to GDP helping to entrench growth."

The economy had been in recession for the previous nine months and has still not recovered the levels of output seen before the financial crisis in 2008.

The GDP figures were also enhanced by comparison with the previous three months, because the second quarter had an extra public holiday as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, as well as unusually bad weather, which reduced growth.

Dan Wagner, CEO of finance firm mPowa, said, "On the coalface, conditions are still fragile. There is still a reluctance to invest in startups and as a result, we could still see a long road to full recovery.

"What the business community wants to see is a package of incentives to stimulate growth and create jobs. This is what the economy needs to bring about lasting change now the Olympic panacea is behind us."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne said: "There is still a long way to go, but these figures show we are on the right track."

The Caravan Club takes over European travel specialists

GOUDHURST-based independent travel specialist, Mark Hammerton Group, has been sold to The Caravan Club by merger and acquisition specialist BCMS.

Founded in the late 1990s, the group provides a range of travel services both in the UK and Europe.

These include Alan Rogers Guides and travel services for camping and caravanners. Belle France offers upmarket cycling and walking tours and Dutch subsidiary Alan Rogers BV, offers advertising and communication services to campsites. It employs more than 35 people across Europe.

The new owners of Mark Hammerton Group are The Caravan Club, representing the interests of more than one million caravanners, motorhomers and trailer tenters.

Under the terms of the sale, Mark Hammerton is set to leave the business following a handover period. Most of the remaining directors and all other staff will continue with company, which will now be known as Alan Rogers Travel Group.

Glen Mallaby of BCMS said: "We are absolutely delighted to have finalised the sale of such a renowned travel specialist as Mark Hammerton Group. Not surprisingly interest in the business was considerable and we are confident that under the ownership of The Caravan Club it will continue to maintain its market leading position."

Hammerton added: "I am very proud of what Mark Hammerton Group represents today and I am delighted, that with the support of BCMS, The Caravan Club has recognised the strength of our brands and the reputation of the services we offer."

New director ready to help keep your business secure

DATA holding centre The Bunker, near Ash, has appointmented Graham Spivey as sales and marketing director.

The facility was built by the Ministry of Defence as a command and control facility able to withstand nuclear attack. It now houses sensitive data from the business world – protecting it in the event of a disaster hitting places such as the City of London.

Spivey will direct The Bunker's sales and marketing teams, providing leadership and helping shape the development of the company's market proposition.

Peregrine Newton, The Bunker's chief executive said: "His skills and experience will make him an asset of great value to our organisation as a whole. He joins us at a very exciting time and brings a wealth of experience that will help drive the business into its next phase of significant growth."

Spivey added: "I look forward to building on the existing impeccable security credentials of The Bunker to further establish our position as the definitive authority in delivering ultra secure solutions that address our clients' business needs."

DEFENCE: The Bunker was built to withstand a nuclear attack

FOR ALL: Steve Carpenter says both employer and employee will benefit from the scheme

MONEY

Paying a staff bonus could be a benefit for all

DSH Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors has come up with a scheme which it says will allow business owners and managers to reward staff and save tax and National Insurance at the same time.

Its Staff Suggestion Scheme allows businesses to reward their employees financially for making suggestions to improve the business and these payments are exempt from tax or National Insurance. The business also qualifies for tax relief on any payments.

Under the terms of the scheme, payments of up to £25 can be made to each employee for each "bright idea" they have, and a maximum limit of £5,000 can be paid if the suggestion is implemented and the benefits recorded.

The Staff Suggestion Scheme must be formally set up but approval from HMRC is not needed.

Steve Carpenter at DSH's Maidstone office said: "The beauty of this scheme is that it benefits both the employer and the employee.

"The employer stands to improve its efficiency or effectiveness by acting upon the ideas of those who know the business best – its staff – as well as gaining tax relief on the payments it rewards its workers with, while the employees will receive a cash incentive for helping to drive the business forward.

"In order to qualify for the tax free payment, a suggestion must be outside the scope of the employee's normal duties.

"To implement a formal scheme all the employer needs to do is publicise the details to its staff openly – for example, by posting a simple set of scheme details on the office notice board."

Training, courses and careers

Meet the students at college's two campus open days

NORTH West Kent College is hosting an Open Day, at its newly redeveloped Dartford and Gravesend campuses.

The event is on Thursday, November 8, from 3.30-8.30pm.

The college says it has an excellent record of providing a pathway to employment and university, and that it offers a range of courses and levels in hair, beauty, business, secretarial, computing, construction, engineering, catering, art and design, music, media, performing arts, professional care, sport, travel and tourism, public services, foundation learning, and higher education.

The college has links with business, which enable students to gain the best experience possible and potentially job opportunities after completing their course.

The Business Career Academy is linked with companies in Canary Wharf, and the sport department has recently teamed-up with Gillingham FC to provide a professional coaching programme.

Principal David Gleed said: "Don't just arrange to come and talk to our staff, arrange to come and talk to our students too and find out why they chose North West Kent College. Our students are our best ambassadors and their success is our greatest achievement."

Some £90 million has been invested in facilities at both campuses. There are entry Level 1 and 2 progression courses available across the college.

UTC could bring back engineering glory days

A UNIVERSITY Technical College for Medway would provide a wealth of opportunities for young people who might otherwise drop out of education.

That is the view of Sue McLeod, acting principal of MidKent College – one of the lead sponsors of the bid to secure a UTC for the towns and help restore Medway's reputation as a hotbed of engineering and construction talent.

One of its roles in the project is to give support and advice in all stages of the UTC's development and beyond, with the college saying it is well placed to advise on curriculum, premises and the specific equipment required to meet industry standards.

Ms McLeod said: "The unfortunate reality of the existing system is that by the time many students reach school-leaver age they have lost interest in their own education.

"A UTC will enable a degree of specialisation prior to age 16 that is currently unavailable and which will re-engage and enthuse students.

"Young people who choose to study at such a UTC will also be supported in their progression to further and higher education at MidKent College, which offers a wide range of courses in engineering and construction in addition to apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships."

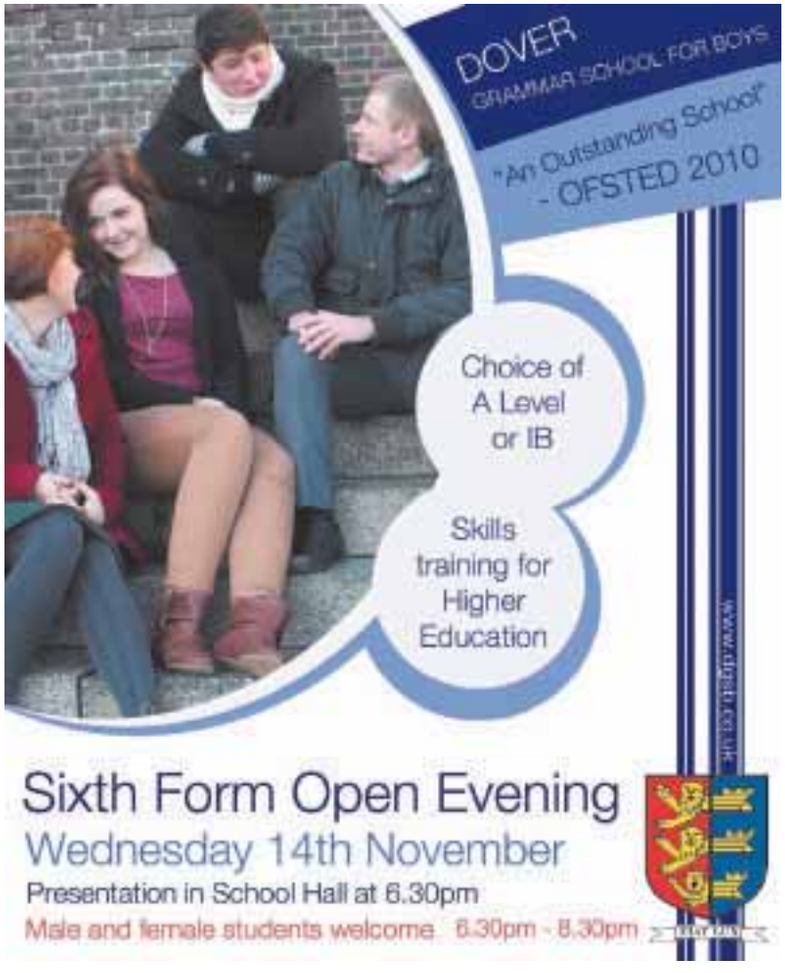
What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000 .

SPONSOR: Officials at MidKent College believe a University Technical College would bring benefits

The preferred site for the UTC is an unused block at the Royal School of Military Engineering, where MidKent College has a contract, through the Ministry of Defence, to deliver £690 million of training.

Ms McLeod said: "With the Wolf report advising that thousands of vocational subjects be stripped from school league tables, it has never been more important to increase the range of options available to young people.

"A UTC in Medway would open a whole world of possibilities for young people in the region and ensure they are not lost to an educational system that did not properly provide for them."



Funding boost to train minority groups to be decision-makers

GETTING on Board, a project to help people get involved in community decision-making, has won nearly £50,000 of funding to deliver new learning opportunities across Kent.

The programme will be led by Community Futures, part of the Avenues Group and delivered in partnership with members of the Kent Valuing People Partnership, Community Learning and Skills, part of Kent County Council, and Dods/Westminster Explained.

Getting on Board has won £47,561 funding from the Skills Funding Agency as part of the new Community Learning Innovation Fund to teach people about how decisions get made where they live and how to get involved, for example on school boards, NHS patient groups, and community plans.

The courses are aimed at people who may not usually get involved, such as those with learning disabilities, and people from minority groups.

Getting on Board will help people to develop their confidence, build on particular interests such as the environment or other community issues, and will involve speakers from the community.

Community Futures managing director Simon Goldsmith said: "We are delighted to be able to deliver this programme of work across Kent with East Kent Mencap and North West Kent Independent Advocacy Scheme.

"We are looking forward to working with many local people to develop new leaders who will help our communities to be cleaner, safer and welcoming to all.

"We are particularly pleased we will be working with many local decision-makers to hear about the work they do and how ordinary people can make a greater contribution to the places where they live and work."

Tony Shaw, director of development at Dods Training, said: "As an organisation that works with Parliament, government and the civil service on a regular basis, this fantastic project is a great opportunity to work with community groups across Kent.

"We recognise what a crucial initiative this represents in the current climate and hope to play a small part in making a big difference to the lives of those with learning difficulties and from minority groups."

Verity Hancock, Skills Funding Agency executive director, capacity and infrastructure, said: "The response to the new Community Learning Innovation Fund has been phenomenal and the Skills Funding Agency is pleased to be able to support these innovative projects that meet the needs of local people.

"By making it easier for disadvantaged people to learn new skills and access training and support, they gain new opportunities to improve their lives, building stronger families and communities in the process."

Schools & education

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Art students produce work for mental health wards

CANTERBURY College students have created therapeutic artwork for newly-opened mental health wards at St Martin's Hospital in the city.

Thirty students created graphic murals and photo prints for the walls, signage, and window art for the £10 million Foxglove and Bluebell wards.

Students worked with the hospital as part of their BTEC Extended Diploma in Graphic Design and Photography coursework. The hospital asked them to help create a suitable environment for people with mental health problems.

The series of images they created evoke serene outdoor spaces.

The hospital's principal art therapist Joyce Armstrong said: "When discussing artwork for the new build, my thoughts went to the college. I introduced the students' artwork to service users and staff who would potentially use the new unit, and took art workshops to the wards where we generated a variety of themes.

"These led to a choice of native wild flowers that produced the names and overall themes for the wards."

The students were given a £25,000 budget for the project. Patients and staff from St Martin's regularly visited the college's art department to give input throughout the design process. Charlie Thompson, 18, from Ashford, designed several wall murals, signage and window graphics for the wards. He said: "It's great to see my work in the wards and know it's going to help people with their recoveries. That makes it even more worthwhile."

Victoria Packman, 18, from Sittingbourne, provided several photographic prints. She said: "We had to be really careful when making the art because patients could find certain things, like blurry images, distressing.

"We had to keep it bright, colourful and happy so they feel peaceful when they see it."

THERAPEUTIC: Danni Golding, 17, produced photo prints for the walls at St Martin's Hospital

Gold medal for sports department

FOLKESTONE Academy's sports and PE department has been awarded the gold level Sainsbury's School Games Kitemark for its commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport.

To achieve the award the academy had to provide evidence for a number of set criteria, in particular motivating less-active students to take part in regular sporting activities as well as ensuring all students take part in at least two hours of PE during curriculum time each week.

The Gold Kitemark was awarded for additional standards including recognition of coaching programmes and student engagement within community competitions either as performers or volunteers.

Head of sports and PE Louise Eede, said: "This is a fantastic award and all credit goes to the children who participated in sporting clubs and competitions on a regular basis. It's a great honour and I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers and coaches."

Academy pupils build wind turbine as part of Young Engineers project

STUDENTS from Year 9 and 10 at the Marlowe Academy have been given the opportunity to work with the national Young Engineers project.

The executive directors of Young Engineers, Stuart Ellins and Nigel Moore, led a range of activities with the pupils, designed to stimulate the brains of tomorrow's scientists and engineers.

Students at the Ramsgate school worked through a range of practical and theoretical activities which gave them an insight into the energy problems facing the country and the world as the century unfolds.

The highlight of the day was a competition to build a working wind turbine on a limited resource budget, and see who could produce the most electricity.

The winners were Steph Aves, Casey Appleyard, Charlotte Richardson, Kieran Mills, and Jungle Hall.

Students said one of the most interesting insights of the day was understanding the breadth of the world of engineering which encompasses almost every sphere of human activity imaginable.

The academy said a fun-filled day was had by all.

Year 10 student Charlotte Richardson, said: "This has been fun and educational.

"I learned about 'Reducing, Re-using and Recycling' materials and how to create energy from waste products.

"The practical was fun and I'd like to see more activities like this in the academy. The teachers were lovely and helped me learn lots."

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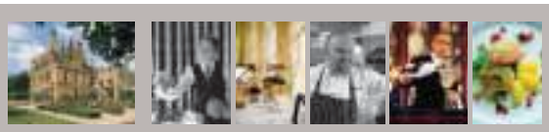

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Contact Details
Tel: **01795 477475** Fax: **01795 479461**
Email **swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk**
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Head of School: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
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Public Appointments

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Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed. Salary is negotiable between top and bottom scales.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9.11.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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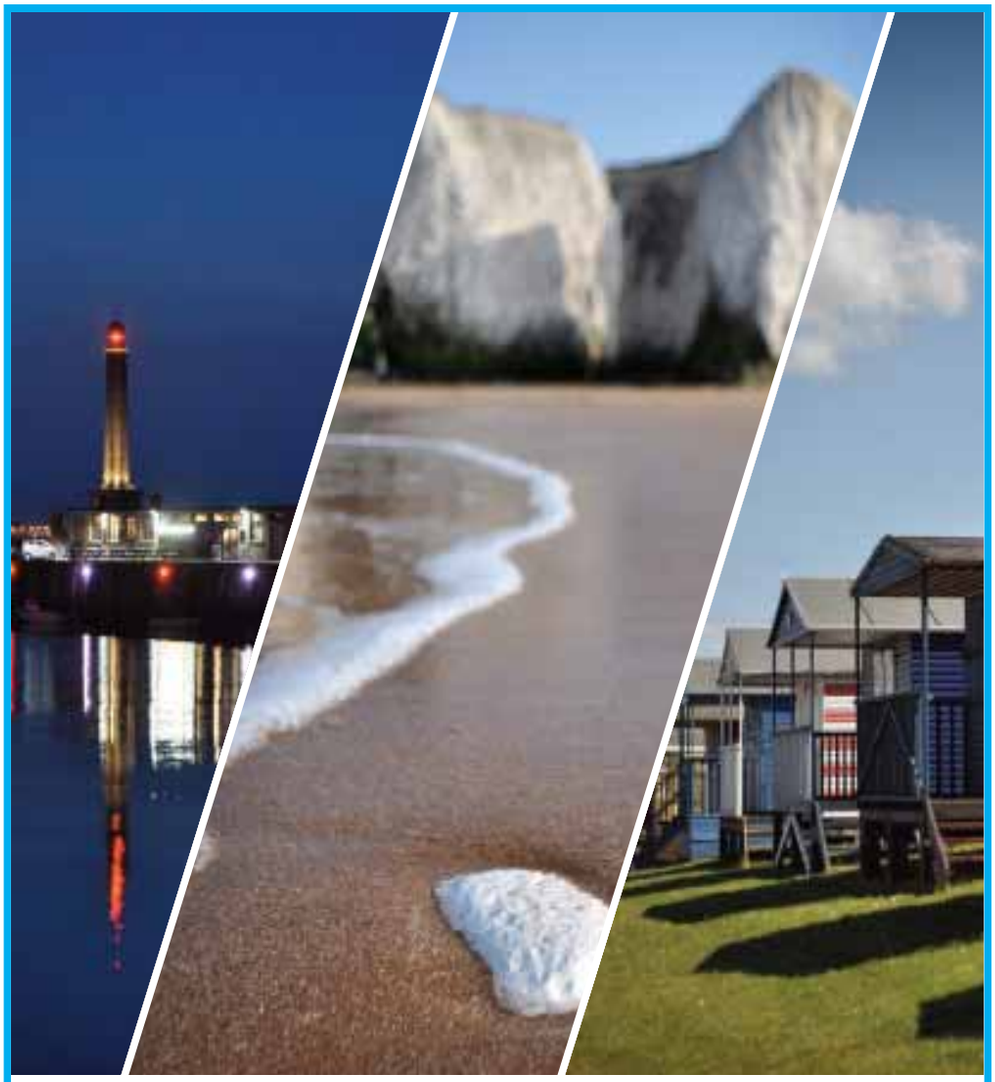

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Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01274/FUL: Hallmark Workwear and Safety, Barham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6QS Residential redevelopment of 22 units, comprising the demolition of former agricultural buildings, conversion of historic farm building, erection of new dwellings, associated parking and access and creation of area of public open space. **Applicant: Mr Keith Groombridge** Reason: Contrary/major/conservation.
CA//12/01275/LB: Hallmark Workwear and Safety, Barham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6QS Conversion of historic farm building to a dwelling in association with residential development of 22 units. **Applicant: Mr Keith Groombridge** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01276/CAC: Hallmark Workwear and Safety, Barham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6QS Demolition of former agricultural buildings in association with residential development of 22 units. **Applicant: Mr Groombridge** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01693/FUL: 5 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AP Partial demolition of single storey extension to retail unit. Erection of five houses and two flats. **Applicant: Rossetti Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01694/CAC: 5 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AP Partial demolition of single storey extension to retail unit. Erection of five houses and two flats. **Applicant: Rossetti Ltd** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01727/FUL: Field adjacent to east of Sunny Gable, Anvil Green, Waltham, CT4 7EU Erection of storage shed. **Applicant: Prof S Owens** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01781/FUL: 6 Vicarage Hill, Petham, CT4 5RE Demolition of existing garage, erection of replacement garage and construction of a two-storey extension to side of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Burgess** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01792/LB: 10 Mercery Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JJ Refit shop sales area and replace existing signage **Applicant: Coastguard Road Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01861/FUL: Land adjacent to the Royal Oak, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LP Conversion of existing brick and timber barns to form a single dwelling, erection of a new detached dwelling with detached garden store/garage and demolition of remaining outbuildings and removal of caravans. **Applicant: Mr Summerfield** Reason: Departure Major setting of listed building.
CA//12/01864/LB: The Old Bake House, The Street, Petham, CT4 5QY Alterations to existing internal staircase and re-positioning of first floor bathroom. Replace dining room window with glazed doors and blocking up of existing single external door. Remove fuel oil tank to north elevation and placement of green plastic bunded fuel oil tank in rear garden. **Applicant: Mr Allen** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01871/FUL: The House of Agnes, 71 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury Erection of detached function room to the rear of The House of Agnes linked to the main building via an open walkway. **Applicant: Fusion Etc Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01872/LB: The House of Agnes, 71 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury Erection of detached function room to the rear of The House of Agnes linked to the main building via an open walkway. **Applicant: Fusion Etc Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01873/FUL: Walnut Tree Farm, Pett Bottom Road, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EG Retention of holiday accommodation within existing barn. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wilson** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01884/FUL: Hawthorn Cottage, Maypole Road, Hoath, CT3 4LW Replacement flat roof and extension of living room and existing porch. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Evans** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01886/FUL: Romany View, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LP Siting of caravan and ancillary building (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Miss Kelly Barton** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01887/FUL: Land to the west of Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent Erection of ten buildings standing two, three and four storeys in height to create student accommodation (797 bed spaces) comprising townhouses and cluster blocks and associated administration/catering/welfare facilities, along with refuse and recycling facilities, car and cycle parking, drainage, landscaping and recreation space and new access road off University Road. **Applicant: University of Kent** Reason: Environmental statement submitted.
CA//12/01890/LB: 11-12 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HG Replacement shopfront. **Applicant: Mr C Robinson** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01891/TPO: High Beech, Patrixbourne Road, Bridge, CT4 5BL Coppice the group of four Ash and one twin stemmed Sycamore, coppice/pollard Ash tree subject to TPO No 6 1990. **Applicant: Mr Corfield** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01893/TPO: Broome Park, Canterbury Road, Barham, CT4 6QX Pruning, including removal of dead, dying and suspect branches present within entire crown back to source of T1 mature Beech and T2 mature Atlas Cedar subject to TPO No 1 1953/W3.
Applicant: Diamond Resorts (Europe) Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01894/FUL: 48 Cossington Road, Canterbury, CT1 3HU Replacement conservatory to the rear elevation. **Applicant: Ms J Collingworth** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01899/FUL: 1 Stone Cottages, Kake Street, Waltham, CT4 5RY Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/00959/FUL for extension to garage to create ancillary accommodation in order to extend the time limit for implementation **Applicant: Mr D Benge** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 26 November 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 2 November 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02936/HOUSE The Barn Fairmans Lane, Brenchley
- Repaint all exterior weatherboarding & joinery in black stain, remove oil tanks and demolish walls replacing with new plastic oil tank in new position behind barn (LB)

12/02901/FULMJ Major Clark House Rope Walk, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Demolition of existing buildings. Construction of new 2 and 3 storey building consisting of 24 flats (12 x 1-bed and 12 x 2-bed) for older persons (MAJOR)

12/02892/FUL 43 Dudley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Conversion of offices to 5 no. one bed flats (CA) (LB)

12/01923/HOUSE Heathside Green Road, Horsmonden
- Replacement of existing 2m high close-boarded garden fence with a 2m high brick wall (CA) (LB)

12/02799/FUL The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst
- Single storey rear extension (LB) (CA)

12/02801/LBC The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension (LB)

12/02875/FUL First Floor 42 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use from A2 office use to D2 yoga studio (CA)

12/02889/HOUSE Laragh House 48 Claremont Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Removal of existing lean to out building and replacement with extension to utility room (CA)

12/02905/FUL 1 - 5 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Two single storey extensions to the second floor elements of 3 and 5 High Street and the reconfiguration of the second and third floors to provide five self-contained flats, consisting of 1 x two bed unit and 4 x one bed units. Demolition of a single storey element of the detached rear store building and construction of a new two storey extension to provide 4 self-contained one bedroom units (CA) (LB)

12/02906/FUL Flat 9 11 Broadwater Down, Pantiles & St Marks
- Retrospective: Shed (CA)

12/02919/CAC 3 - 5 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Conservation area consent - two single storey extensions to the second floor elements of 3 and 5 High Street and the reconfiguration of the second and third floors to provide five self-contained flats, consisting of 1 x two bed unit and 4 x one bed units. Demolition of a single storey element of the detached rear store building and construction of a new two storey extension to provide 4 self-contained one bedroom units (CA)

12/02863/HOUSE 3 Pennington Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Part Retrospective: Demolition of single storey rear extension and conservatory and re-construction with additional infill section. Rear extension to left hand wing. Garage extension (Amendments to TW/12/00168/HOUSE) (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 03 November 2012

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1717/N - BISHOPS, AVERY LANE, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RZ - Demolition of existing stable block and conversion of existing garage to form annex to existing dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1758/S - HODGES PLACE, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AU - Front entrance porch. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1862/S - JUBILEE HALL, STICKFAST LANE, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HA - Application for listed building consent to enlarge kitchen by incorporating rear lobby and log store including insertion of conservation roof lights to single storey lean to roof and vaulting of ceiling, installation of French doors and windows to south elevation, installation of feather-edge weatherboarding to first floor bathroom, removal of chimney on west elevation, insertion of new sash windows to east elevation, removal of non-original staircase and stud partition wall and installation of new staircase and internal alterations to form new door opening to study, reinstatement of inglenook fireplace and installation of an ensuite bathroom to bedroom 2. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **18th November 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 4th November 2012

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 19 NOVEMBER 2012

SW/12/1175 & SW/12/1176:
Installation of extraction unit adjacent to barn (joinery works), removal of redundant internal unit - Abbey Farm, Abbey Fields, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1185:
Demolish rotting garden shed, erect new garden shed. Repair and extend driveway to create off-street parking for 3 vehicles - Stonebridge Lodge, West Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1207:
Extension to front of Church to provide larger entrance foyer with central porch. Construction of extension to enlarge existing front kitchen - The Methodist Church, High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1208:
Open up former entrance to form secondary entrance for DDA level access - Natwest, 27 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1212:
Change of use from workshop to two new holiday let flats and the alteration of existing cottage to create premises for home business - The Limes, 116 The Street, BOUGHTON; REASONS 1, 2 & 4

SW/12/1219:
To alter rear external door and provision of ramp for disabled access - Villa Toscana, 9 Whitstable Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Application to vary a Premises Licence Licensing Act 2003

Jaspers Restaurant 14-15 Church Road (St Pauls), Canterbury CT1 1NH Notice is hereby given that Mr C Kara of the above address, has applied to Canterbury City Council for the variation of a premises licence to sell alcohol on & off the premises between midday and midnight, show films, and provide late night refreshment between the hours of midday and 03:00 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, midday and 04:00 on Thursday, Friday & Saturdays, and midday to 01:00 on Sundays. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.swale.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:
26th November 2012
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PLANNING

Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 19 NOVEMBER 2012

SW/12/0211:
Change of use of shed to B1 business and pole barn to B8 storage - Abbey Farm, Abbey Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1028:
Upgrade of existing telecoms site: The swapping out/upgrading of the existing antennae, the addition of one 600 MM dish, the addition of one new equipment cabinet, the swapping out/exchanging of two existing equipment cabinets for one new cabinet, together with associated ancillary development - Existing telecomms Installation, 10-11 Market Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1237:
Replacement garden room - Hazel Cottage, Lewson Street, NORTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1243:
Outline application for residential development (about 36 dwellings), residential care home (about 80 beds) and public open space with wildlife area - Four Gun Field, Otterham Quay Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASONS 3,4 & 6**

SW/12/1292:
Ancillary stable accommodation extension - Sunnyhill Farm, Munsgore Lane, BORDEN; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1302:
Single storey rear extension - Roselett Cottage, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1312:
Removal of agricultural occupancy condition (iv) of planning permission NK/9/62/94/6827 - Parsonage Farm Bungalow, Painters Forstal, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1313 &
SW/12/1314:
Extension to time period of approved SW/09/1194 & SW/09/1195 - Went End Cottage, Nursery Lane, Sheldwich Lees, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1318 &
SW/12/1346:
Existing single storey office with flat roof to have pitched roof. Existing single storey porch and store with flat roofs to be replaced with new kitchen side extension with pitched roof. Existing garage to be removed and replaced with new timber garage - The Old Police House, Staplestreet Road, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1322:
Replace front door - 32 South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1323 &
SW/12/1324:
Change of use of 4 one bedroom flats with demolition of existing single storey side extension and construction of proposed two storey rear and side extension - Pier Toll House, West Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1332:
Proposed development of 6 four bedroom detached houses with associated parking - Land adjacent The Meadows, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0962/SH# - 1 Sycamore Gardens Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LA - Felling of two Sycamore trees situated within a conservation area and replacement with two Silver Birch trees.

Y12/0912/SH+ - 22 Bartholomew Street Hythe Kent CT21 5BS - Listed building consent for replacement of 3 windows to rear elevation.

Y12/0907/SH - 8 - 10 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2SY - Display of 3 externally illuminated fascia signs and 3 non-illuminated fascia signs to front and side elevations, 6 non-illuminated poster panel signs to front and east facing side elevations, non-illuminated sign above entrance on front elevation and 3 non-illuminated vertical signs to front and west facing side elevation.

Y12/0909/SH - 47 Whitecliffs 9 - 15 The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2DT - Installation of replacement UPVC windows and doors.

Y12/0965/SH - Bankside High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area

Y12/0926/SH - Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks Port Lympne Aldington Road Lympne Hythe - Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of planning permission Y11/1022/SH to enable the leisure site to operate between 1st April and 30th October in any calendar year.

Y12/0951/SH - Pett Bottom Big Pett Stowting Common Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for the re-cladding of roof, enlargement of existing cart entrance and erection of midstrey and repairs to walls.

Y12/0956/SH - Couties Wynde 1 The Square Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of a Conifer tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0958/SH+ - Land adjoining The Lads Club Rectory Lane Saltwood Kent - Felling of a Hawthorn tree situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of Scots Pine and Oak trees.

Y12/0676/SH - 52 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Kent CT20 3AX - Installation of replacement UPVC windows and doors.

Y12/0844/SH - Flat F 9 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2HW - Enlargement of existing dormer window to provide double doors and balcony with balustrade to rear elevation, installation of roof light to rear facing roof slope together with installation of replacement roof light to side roof slope.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE153A (PART) PRESTON)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 17 October 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath EE153A which commences at NGR TR 24772 60643 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 93 metres to NGR TR 24779 60549 (Point B) and to provide a new length of public footpath numbered EE153A, which commences at NGR TR 24772 60643 (Point A) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 68 metres to NGR 24749 60579 (Point C), thence continues in an east south easterly direction for 10 metres to NGR TR 24759 60574 (Point D), thence in a south easterly direction for 27 metres to NGR TR 24774 60551 (Point E), thence in an east south easterly direction for 6 metres, to NGR 24779 60549 (Point B). Between Points A-C-D-E-B on the Order Plan, the new length of public footpath has a width of 2.5 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the Offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 15 November 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 4 November 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40

IN THE PARISH OF EAST FARLEIGH

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath KM40, for its entire length, between Workhouse Lane (near Stockett Lane) and between Franklins Cottages / Dane Lodge Barn, Workhouse Lane (NGR TQ 742 520) from the 29th October 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2013.

The path will be closed for drainage works and the operation of heavy machinery and this will pose a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Olivia Bonham

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY KH135

IN THE PARISH OF THURNHAM

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY KH135
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway KH135, between Roundwell and Chrismill Road (Public Bridleway KH134) from the 12th November 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 12 December 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it.

The alternative route is via the A20 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF5

IN THE PARISH OF FAVERSHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF5
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZF5 between the car park at Front Brents (NGR TR 015 617) and the entrance to Front Brents Industrial Estate, (NGR TR 017 620) from the 19th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. The works are expected to take no more than 3 days, commencement of the closure will be dependent on weather conditions, although it is expected that it will reopen before 21st December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users. A concrete pad has to be formed over an existing culvert to strengthen the structure.

The alternative route is via the car park and along Upper Brents and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 4th November 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

B2205 CANTERBURY ROAD TO A299 THANET WAY ON-SLIP, HERNE BAY (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the installation of a new surface water sewer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the coast bound on-slip linking the B2205 Canterbury Road with the A299 Thanet Way, Herne Bay.

The section of road affected is from the existing National Speed Limit Sign on the slip road to a point approximately 80 metres south west of where the slip road meets the main coast-bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way.

This Order takes effect on or after 19 November 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks, and applies on weekdays when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

FAULKNERS LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace the parapets on the bridge over the A2, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faulkners Lane, Canterbury, on or after 11 November 2012, as shown below.

Overnight closures are planned for the Sundays of 11 November 2012 and 25 November 2012 and Friday 7 December 2012.

The planned times for each closure are between 9.00 pm through until 5.00 am the following morning.

Faulkners Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the A2 Overbridge.

The alternative routes are as follows

Northbound - via Pilgrims Lane, Bigbury Road, Denstead Lane, westbound on A2 Boughton Bypass to Canterbury Road, eastbound on A2 Boughton Bypass, A2050 Harbledown By-pass, Chartham Hatch Road and Church Hill to Faulkners Lane

Southbound - via Church Hill, Chartham Hatch Road, westbound on A2050 Harbledown By-pass, Denstead Lane, Bigbury Road and Pilgrims Lane to Faulkners Lane

GRAVEL CASTLE ROAD, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the one-way section of Gravel Castle Road, Barham from Monday 19 November 2012 for up to 5 days.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Alpine Cottage, with no through access along the one-way section between Church Lane and Brickfield Road.

The alternative routes for through traffic are:

For light vehicles via Church Lane, The Street, Valley Road and Brickfield Road.

For HGVs via the A2 Canterbury-bound to Bonny Bush Hill and Valley Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Gravel Castle Road will be suspended to allow access from either direction up to the point of closure.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

COOTING ROAD & DORMAN AVENUE NORTH, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cooting Road & Dorman Avenue North, Aylesham, on or after 8 November 2012, as shown below.

COOTING ROAD will be closed at the junction with Spinney Lane.

The alternative route is via B2046 Adisham Road and Spinney Lane

DORMAN AVENUE NORTH will be closed at the junction with Adisham Road.

The alternative route is via B2046 Adisham Road, Spinney Lane, Dorman Avenue South and Market Place.

Only one of the roads will be closed at any one time, and both will be within the hours 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

RATLING ROAD, AYLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable access to ducting in the carriageway for a new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ratling Road, Aylesham, on or after 25 November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Burgess Road and Ackholt Road.

The alternative route is via Burgess Road, Bell Grove and Ackholt Road.

ST RADIGUND'S ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Radigund's Road, Dover, on or after 5 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Bunkers Hill Road and Marjan Close.

The alternative route is via Primrose Place, Primrose Road, Coombe Valley Road and Barwick Road to St Radigund's Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

FOXENDOWN LANE, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to allow access to a carriageway box for cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxendown Lane, Meopham between Whitehill Road and Camer Park Road on or after 23 November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Camer Park Road, Green Lane, Wrotham Road, The Street, Whitehill Road and Brimstone Hill.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

CLAPPER LANE, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clapper Lane, Staplehurst, on or after 6 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A229 Maidstone Road and George Street.

The alternative route is via A229 Maidstone Road, George Street.

HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of RSM inspection and changing rails, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hampstead Lane, Yalding, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 2 nights between 22.00hrs and 05.30hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road, A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road, Beltring Road, Gravelly Ways, Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane.

SHERENDEN LANE, MARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to enable the installation of a piped crossing to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sherenden Lane, Marden, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed near Sherenden Farmhouse.

The alternative route is via B2079 Goudhurst Road, Curtisden Green Lane, Wilden Park Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

PILGRIMS WAY, KEMSING, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the replacement of a telegraph pole to restore customer service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, on or after 23rd November 2012 for up to I day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Childsbridge Lane to the junction with The Landway and there will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via : Childsbridge Lane, West End, The Landway.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

1) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit along Cowden Road from a point 100 metres south of its junction with Furnace Lane to a point 261 metres southwest of its junction with North Street. 2)Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit on Butterwell Hill from a point 220 metres northeast of its junction with North Street to its junction with Hartfield Road (B2026). 3)Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on High Street and Butterwell Hill from a point 261 metres southwest of its junction with North Street to a point a point 220 metres northeast of its junction with North Street. 4)Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on North Street and Spode Lane from a point 212 metres northwest of its junction with Priory Way to its junction with High Street. 5) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Chantlers Mead from its junction with North Street for its entire length. 6) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Priors Way from its junction with North Street for its entire length. 7) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit on Church Street from its junction with High Street for its entire length.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Laura Squires, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 26/11/2012

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

MAXTED STREET, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maxted Street, Stelling Minnis, on or after 5 November 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Maberdan Riding Centre (per Elgin), with no access for through traffic between the junctions with Misling Lane and Whatsole Street.

The alternative route is via Whatsole Street, Big Pett and Lymbridge Green.

PROSPECT ROAD, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Prospect Road, Hythe, on or after 19 November 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Please note this is the one-way road parallel with the main A259 Prospect Road.

The one-way section of the road will be closed between the junction with Theatre Street and the western entrance to the car park.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between the A259 Prospect Road and the western entrance to the car park, to allow access.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and Prospect Road.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on Prospect Road during these works.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

MILTON ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of construction works for a new roundabout at the junction with Mill Way, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Milton Road, Sittingbourne, on or after 5 November 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with the B2006 Eurolink Way / Mill Way, with no access between the A2 and B2006 using this route.

The alternative route is via A2 St Michael's Road, Crown Quay Lane and B2006 Eurolink Way.

Church Street, Milton will be closed from 5 November 2012 for up to 16 weeks. The road will be closed at its southern end, near Mill Way. There is no alternative route, as the road is a cul-de-sac.

Pedestrians should use Millen Road and St Paul's Way to reach Mill Way.

WEST STREET, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Street, Faversham, on or after 5 November 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Flood Lane and South Road.

The alternative route for vehicles under 7.5T is via Stonebridge Way, Beech Close, Lower Road, and B2040 South Road.

A temporary weight restriction of 7.5T (except buses and access) will be in force in respect of Stonebridge Way, at its junction with Dark Hill.

The alternative for all vehicles over 7.5T is via Dark Hill, Bysing Wood Road, B2045 Western Link, A2 London Road, Ospringe Street, London Road, Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane, Whitstable Road, East Street, Crescent Road, Court Street, Quay Lane, Conduit Street and North Lane.

The one-way order in respect of West Street will be suspended from South Road to the point of closure to allow access, when indicated by signage on site.

Whilst Caslocke Street cannot be reached via West Street, the alternative route will be via Fielding Street with a ramp to Hatch Street. The One-way Traffic order in respect of Caslocke Street will then be suspended, for access only.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

CALLIS COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable access to ducting in the carriageway to provide a new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, on or after 20 November 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the northern entrance to Maurice House, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Reading Street and Lanthorne Road

The alternative route is via Reading Street, Beacon Road and Grange Road.

EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Epple Road, Birchington, on or after 19 November 2012 from Monday 19th November 2012 at 22:00 hrs until Tuesday 20th November 2012 at 06:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Epple Road, Alpha Road, Station Approach, Rossetti Road, Epple Bay Road and Cross Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

A20 LONDON ROAD CYCLE LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A20 London Road Cycle Lane, on or after 8 November 2012 for up to 19 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The cycle lane will be closed from Ditton Place to New Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

HALL'S HOLE ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall's Hole Road, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 22 November 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A264 Pembury Road and Cornford Lane.

The alternative route is via A264 Pembury Road, Bayham Road, Hall's Hole Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 4th November 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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Many of the hotels are Landmark properties and architectural gems, which Britannia has restored and revitalised to create an attractive environment to be enjoyed by all.

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Perhaps best of all, Britannia Hotels offer excellent value for money.

Bosworth Hall Hotel

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Price pp
Royal Albion Hotel Brighton	10 December 7, 14 December	4 3	£99 £89
Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire	23, 30 November 7, 14, 21 December	2	£75
Grand Burstin Hotel Folkestone	14 December **Includes nightly entertainment**	3	£89
Britannia Hotel Bournemouth **Includes nightly entertainment**	14 December 21 December	3 2	£89 £69
Heathlands Hotel Bournemouth **Includes nightly entertainment**	10, 17 December 14 December 21 December	4 3 2	£109 £89 £69
4-star London International Hotel, London Docklands	27 December	2	£109

PRICE INCLUDES: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 2, 3 or 4 nights in an en-suite hotel room with dinners & breakfasts PLUS Entertainment where stated • Prices are per person and based on 2 people sharing a twin/double-bedded room, singles available - supplement applies

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Christmas & New Year Self-Drive Deals

at Brook Hotels

2 to 4 nights half board+

From £149pp

Quote BROOK-KOS

December 2012

Enjoy a great value festive break at one of these super Brook Hotels.

Honiley Court is a 4-star hotel in rural Warwickshire.

Tewkesbury Park is a 4-star golf and country spa hotel set in stunning Gloucestershire country-side.

Mollington Banastre Hotel & Spa is a delightful 4-star country hotel in the village of Mollington in Chester.

Redwood Country Club is a 4-star hotel is set in 16 acres of woodland countryside near Bristol.

Christmas package includes: 3 or 4 nights en-suite room • Afternoon tea on arrival • Welcome drink • Christmas Eve Mulled Wine & Mince Pie • 3 or 4 breakfasts & dinners • Christmas day lunch • Boxing Day Gala night • Note dinner on Christmas Day will be a light buffet supper

New Year's Eve package includes: 2 nights en-suite room • Afternoon tea on arrival • Glass of bubbly • 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners including Gala New Year's Eve dinner and Disco (smart dress, not black tie)

Date	Location	Nights	Was pp	Now	Quote
24 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	3	£229	£199	XH12-3
23 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	4	£299	£269	XH12-4
24 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	3	£249	£229	XT12-3
23 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	4	£339	£299	XT12-4
24 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	3	£249	£229	XM12-3
23 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	4	£339	£299	XM12-4
24 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	3	£249	£229	XR12-3
23 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	4	£339	£299	XR12-4
23 Dec	Queensferry, Fife	4	£299	£269	XQ12-4
24 Dec	Queensferry, Fife	3	£229	£199	XQ12-3
30 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	2	£169	£149	NH12
30 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	2	£189	£169	NR12
30 Dec	Queensferry, Fife	2	£199	£169	NQ12

Grand Hotel, Scarborough
Grand Burstin, Folkestone

Britannia Hotels Christmas & New Year Self-Drive Deals

3 to 4 nights, half board+

From £169pp

Quote BRIT-X-KOS

Enjoy a Christmas or New Year break at a Britannia hotel where you can relax and relish the festivities with none of the usual stresses. You will enjoy half board accommodation, entertainment every evening, a traditional Christmas lunch or a Gala Hogmanay buffet dinner and New Year's Day Brunch.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite hotel room with TV and tea/coffee tray
- Breakfasts & dinners
- Entertainment every evening
- Christmas breaks include Christmas lunch on Christmas Day and a light supper in the evening
- New Year breaks include a gala Hogmanay buffet dinner and New Year's Day brunch

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Price pp
Britannia Bournemouth	23 December	4	£199
Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone	23 December	4	£199
Grand Hotel, Scarborough	24 December	3	£169
Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton	30 December	3	£179
Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone	30 December	3	£179
Roundhouse Hotel, Bournemouth	30 December	3	£179

Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

Quote BH1/2-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

Extend your New Year Celebrations with a fantastic value break at popular Bosworth Hall. Our Carry on New Year Party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment

Swinging Sixties 99p Bar Seaside Party

For over 40s only

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

£99pp

Quote PR3-KOS

8 March, 2013

We're taking a trip down memory lane - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. The Good News team and Pontins famous Bluecoats will be on hand to ensure everyone has a good time. Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. There's a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

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(T&C's below)

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

VIVACIOUS arty, caring female, 63, seeks intelligent, kind, caring, positive male with GSOH to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394651**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

JANET happy go lucky, young 60, likes meals out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

BIG blonde and beautiful 43tyr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

CLARE 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133**

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707**

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

IVY May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

BERYL retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

56YR old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773**

THANET male, smart, young mid 60's, caring, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396405**

PAUL 61, down to earth, average guy, likes home life, days out, meals out, holidays, walks, social drinker, smoker, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396587**

NIGEL 50, caring, honest, interesting, fit, seeks beautiful, sensitive woman inside and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392792**

PHIL 63, 6ft, WLTM tallish woman to love and share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395975**

RICHARD 47, likes holidays, theatre, walks, meals out, cinema, keep fit, swimming, bowling, gardening, looking for happy LTR with female, 34-68. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395953**

JAMES 64, likes animals, meals out, cinema, walks, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392728**

MALE mid 40's, medium build, loving, kind, caring, loyal, seeks female, 46-58, size 14-20 for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391662**

Men Seeking

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(T&C's below)

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

RICHARD 47, single, looking for happy LTR with female, 37-68, likes holidays, theatre, cooking, music, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398071**

HANDSOME MD 44, 6ft 3ins, slim, fair, great company, own car/boat/motorcycle, seeks slim, submissive female, 35-65 **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397945**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

63YR old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224**

6FT male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

PHIL biker, single dad, slim, seeks similar slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DENNIS retired, dark hair, brown eyes, fun to be with, seeking love and companionship with similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396915**

ATTRACTIVE male, 47, medium build, dark hair, green eyes, GSOH, reliable, trustworthy, seeks attractive female/single mum, 25-47 with GSOH for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396785**

NICE guy 37 seeks female 48-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393128**

54YR old male, seeks mature female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397477**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

30YR old male, genuine, passionate, respectful, seeking female for romance and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396407**

Gay Seeking

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DAVID 65, retired, 5ft 9ins, grey hair, 14st, likes CD, seeking male, 45-75 dominant for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397813**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 311892**

BI CD looking to meet similar CD/TV for daytime meets 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393017**

ANDY 53, CD, seeking daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391870**

MARK bi-curious, seeks older couple, 45 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392889**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female friends for chats, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641**

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FESTIVE DINING

We sample six of the best places to eat this Christmas

SEE PAGE 42

Peter Andre talks about fame and his latest album

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Kent Weekend

Raising their profile in fight for survival

The moving experience of being a rhino keeper

SEE PAGE 41

PLUS: Modern eatery fails to give value for money - **food and drink p43** The future's expensive if you rent your home - **property p47** Mercedes' latest A-Class definitely makes the grade - **driving p53**

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THE INTERVIEW

Port Lympne rhinos

A day in the life of a rhino keeper

Joe Bill fulfils a childhood dream that's sadly being rapidly killed off

LAST year 448 rhinos were killed by poachers in South Africa. And according to the Save the Rhino charity, a further 281 had been massacred in the country by July in 2012. It is predicted this number will rise to more than 500 by the end of December.

Such statistics highlight the very real possibility that these beautiful creatures may one day be gone from the wild forever; rhinos could well soon only survive in captivity.

Outside of Africa, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Ashford is home to the largest herd of the critically endangered sub species, the eastern black rhino. Years of hard work has seen the park, as part of the Aspinall Foundation, become experts in breeding, having overseen 33 births to date.

It has always been a dream of mine to get up close to these prehistoric looking power houses and having Port Lympne on my doorstep was the perfect excuse to get involved.

The six person rhino team at the park are currently responsible for 14 eastern black rhinos, having recently seen the successful translocation of two females and a male back to the wild in a protected reserve in Tanzania.

My day started at 9am, early for a Saturday, but still more than an hour later than the keepers I was helping/hindering. I found keeper Nick Turk at the bottom of the rhino paddock trying to encourage a large female into a field so that her 'bedroom' could be cleaned. She wasn't budging, instead she happily chowed down on some bushes along the metal fenced walkway.

Nick, who was born to zoo keeper parents, said: "They are browsers, they will eat shrubs and bushes, even nettles as she is doing. They have been in the paddock for the summer so this bush here is a little over grown."

The rhino was doing a good job at trimming back the nettles. The munching noise of her teeth as the leaves were ground up was loud and intense. If you couldn't see her, you would still know the sound came from a big animal.

Nick added: "Sometimes they need some encouragement to get moving."

He then walked behind the rhino before jumping over the barrier, clapping, shouting and encouraging the one and a half tonne rhino to move on. Appareently although rhinos are quite an aggressive species, each has their own character, so Nick knew what he was doing.

POWER HOUSES: Protective mum and baby Kissima, right Joe Bill falls in love with the great Kingo

Next out was the mum and calf pair. Kissima was born in June and introduced to the public in July, an event I was present for. She has grown significantly and is beginning to resemble a little tank.

I ventured towards the metal bars to take a closer look, but mum made her feelings clear by taking a short sprint to the fence and scaring me back a few paces. My place was made very clear by this mother looking out for her calf.

Next out was Kingo, an adult male bull who has fathered a number of calves across Port Lympne and Howlett's in Canterbury. But Nick explained that he was far more docile than the others and enjoys being made a fuss of.

I was handed a feed bag containing carrots, celery, a couple of apples and a banana before being told to "feed him if you want".

My near death experience with the last rhino made me extremely hesitant to even approach the bars, but after Kingo gently took a stick of celery from Nick's hand using his almost beak-like lips, I was up for giving it a go. Keep my fingers out of the way I had fed him only a banana and a carrot before I was hooked, hand feeding him for the next 10 minutes.

Once full, Kingo then came and leaned against the metal posts separating us and Nick began to pat and groom him, even tickling his ears and snout. I took my direction from him and again gave it a go. His hide was rough and muddy, but the skin behind his ears and in the folds of his thighs was soft and after being directed to tickle there, the giant mammal lifted his leg and began to lean.

"Sometimes they will even roll over onto their sides to let you rub them," said Nick.

It was amazing to see this huge beast acting just like a house cat.

Next came the real hard work. I knew I would be having to clean up rhino droppings at some point, and here was that moment. Hoses, brooms, shovels and an anti-bacterial liquid in hand we scrubbed floors and walls, cleaned out drains, shovelling droppings onto a wheelbarrow for the dung heap.

Once those tasks were completed, for the 14 animals – that's a lot of dung – it was time to get the dinners ready for that afternoon and the breakfasts for the following morning.

Most of the rhinos have a diet of fruit and vegetables but the youngsters are given double to help them grow. There are also supplements in some diets, given as nutrient filled pellets.

It wasn't until the afternoon when the sun finally came out that I realised the keepers have another rather big issue to deal with. Visitors.

I had almost forgotten this was a working park until a group of families headed out in trucks on the African Experience safari. It struck me that the keepers often go unnoticed, getting about their important and tiring work without drawing attention to themselves.

Getting as close to these animals as I did is an experience I will never forget, and I thank these 'hidden' keepers who helped me achieve a dream. As the animal parks look to utilise any possible source of much needed income both Port Lympne and Howletts now offer the same opportunity to youngsters looking to have a similar experience. Look out for the Zoo Keeper Academy aimed at teenagers, as well as Junior Ranger days to engage younger enthusiasts.

The Aspinall Foundation's work is helping to improve and boost the eastern black rhino's situation in South Africa but with a wild population thought to be down to around the 800 mark, our increased attention to these amazing animals cannot come soon enough.

Savour the moment with your closest

ENJOYING a meal with your family is one of the great delights of dining, especially during the Christmas season.

Whether it is everyone getting together to enjoy something warm and hearty to eat or just heading out with old friends for a few drinks, the holiday season is a time for enjoying good food, good drinks and a great atmosphere. And our county is a great place to get all of this.

There are so many eateries that offer a top-class lunch or dinner in Kent you are sure to find top-quality food and excellent service. This week we feature restaurants that have a special welcome for family groups and Christmas time get-togethers.

Some have party options and menus especially prepared for larger groups, including some discounts, so take a look at the ones we have singled out.

Restaurants across Kent pride themselves on offering the very best of local produce, so what could be better than sitting alongside your nearest and dearest sampling the fine food and drink produced in the beautiful countryside you are either looking out upon or that is just outside the door?

Why not take a trip out into the country looking for an old pub with log fires, or even stay in town and sample one of our modern restaurants with warm wooden features and delicious dishes.

Whatever your preference, Kent has something to offer you and your group. But just to make it a little easier in the rush to Christmas, we have picked out six of the best.

Oriental Buffet
Tonbridge

Why here...
The Oriental Buffet in Tonbridge has been under new management since January and offers you the chance to feast on all your favourite cuisines. 'Quality without compromise' is the key here.

On the menu...
With more than 50 items to choose from and five different styles of cuisine including Indian, Chinese, Thai or Nepalese. There is something for everyone. Now taking bookings for Christmas parties.

How to book...
Book Now to avoid disappointment. Call 01732 361666. 96 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1AP

Gurkha Palace
Folkestone

Why here...
Try an authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, meaning Gurkha Palace's menu is vast. There is something for everyone.

On the menu...
Excellent food has seen it nominated for the Best Nepalese Restaurant in the country by the Good Food Guide. Highly commended by Channel Chamber and best customer service award.

How to book...
97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley Shopping Centre), Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3NE Phone 01303 257700

Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
On the village green, Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image. With tradtional log fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone. There are top real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu. Food is served Monday to Saturday noon to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. On Sunday from noon to 8pm. Christmas party booking is now available.

On the menu...
Example: Smoked duck and orange salad; bronze turkey served with potatoes roasted in dripping or tender pork belly stuffed with the Red Lion stuffing topped with a cider-and-grated-apple sauce and roast potatoes; Christmas pudding covered with brandy butter.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)

The Hutch
Canterbury

Why here...
Specialist vegetarian Christmas example menu: To start watercress soup served with a beetroot bread roll or English gruyere cheese, leek and fennel seed tart with a herb salad.

On the menu...
Main: Chestnut and pecan ragout, puy lentils, slow cooked in rich red wine and veg sauce or The Hutch festive plait; caramelised onions, Jerusalem artichoke with bean and seed stuffing.

How to book...
Groups of 2-30 welcome from Nov 27. Palace Street, Canterbury, 01227 766700 thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

Fisherman's Wharf
Sandwich

Why here...
For first class cuisine with friendly and welcoming service, the Fisherman's Wharf is certainly worth a visit. Situated in the ancient and quirky town of Sandwich, the restaurant is located on the riverfront next to the old toll bridge. Seating up to 70, it serves light meals and snacks as well as full a la Carte menu.
Two set menus are available at £12.50 and £6.75 for seniors which are both very popular.

On the menu...
The menu includes a delicious selection of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes. Christmas day lunch is available at £39.50 per person with children at half price. In addition, the restaurant is the perfect place to have your Christmas party with a three course meal from £15.95.

How to book...
Fisherman's Wharf, The Quay, Sandwich, phone 01304 613636 or email us on fishwharf36@aol.com

The Woolpack
Chilham

Why here...
The Woolpack Inn has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, with oak beams and inglenook fireplaces. A home-cooked menu is available Christmas Day priced at £59.95 per person. Guests are seated midday and 1.30pm.

On the menu...
Example: smoked duck with bacon lardons, or black pudding with an orange dressing on a herb salad. Roast turkey with all the trimmings, or fillet of beef Wellington with sauté potatoes and seasonal veg.

How to book...
The Street, Chilham CT4 8DL (phone 01227 730351, email woolpackinnchilham@btconnect.com)

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A venue needs more than a chalkboard to avoid the chop

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

AS Kent's coastal areas continue to impress with their range of restaurants and high level of cuisine excellence, it is inevitable that more eateries will try their hand in the thriving market place.

The Oyster & Chop House in Herne Bay High Street is one of those to pop up in recent months and a number of good things have been said about it. The decor is modern and stylish and features the menu chalked up on a blackboard in what is now a common trend. The dishes available looked impressive on the board and the almost nouvelle cusine style of presentation was equally mouthwatering.

We were served our first round of drinks along with homemade mini loaves of brown and white bread as well as a mini pork terrine with pickles and vinaigrette appetizer. Very nice, very neat and hopefully a sign of things to come.

Portion sizes are not ever a bugbear of mine usually but having paid £6 for a clam, whelk and red cabbage salad to start, I was shocked to receive just three cooked clams and two whelks on my plate. The shell fish was superb and the dressing on the red salad excellent, but it was gone in one forkful. My guest went for the grilled courgettes, marinated feta and quinoa (a grain like ingredient, similar to cous-cous) at £6. It is

fair to say that the diner was not over enamoured with the almost raw vegetables nor the price they came in at.

For the main course I went for the roast partridge with pearl barley and rosehip marinated carrots, £15. The carrots were delicious and the wings of the bird very well cooked, and again the dish was presented beautifully. However, the body of the partridge was very dissappointing. Not only was it incredibly difficult to take any of the meat from the bird's body, it was over-cooked and rubbery.

My guest had more luck with the chicken breast and leg steak in a tarragon sauce, £13,50. After giving it a try myself, the dish was tasty, even if the portion size once again left a little to be desired.

Our service had been decent up to that point, but as the night went on and the tables filled it was clear another member of waiting staff was needed. This was commented on by the table sitting next to us. Despite finishing our first round of drinks half an hour previously, we were not offered a second. A long wait ensued after our main course was finished by which time we had decided against one of only two desserts that seemed to be available.

Instead we opted for a cafe latte, £3, before we left for the evening. Mistake. It did eventually arrive, more than 15 minutes later, with an apology for tardiness but really, the restaurant isn't that big and for a Saturday night, maybe some forsight to bring in an extra pair of hands would have been wise. The restaurant has good ideas but it needs to walk before it can run and get the basics right first.

I would maybe go back, in time, but for now I will let others be the guinea pigs.

Joe Bill

■ **The Oyster & Chop House**
High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LH
Telephone: 01227 749 933

Step up to the British Garlic Challenge

Green fingered enthuistasts in Kent are being encouraged to get involved with the Great British Garlic Challenge.

The competition, run by The Garlic Farm group based on the Isle of Wight, is looking for the best amateur garlic grower in the UK. The winner will receive a complimentary weekend for two at The Garlic Farm, £100 to spend in the farm shop and a meal for two at the onsite restaurant. Five runners up will each receive a year's supply of garlic. The Garlic Farm seeds are stocked at Polhill Farm Shop Ltd, Sevenoaks, The Hop Shop, Sevenoaks, Perry Court Farm, Ashford and Haguelands Village, Romney Marsh. Visit thegarlicfarm.co.uk for more details.

Delivery service for best Kent ingredients

Rochester produce suppliers, Batchelors Local Foods, will be branching out to create a home delivery service.

The group, which has been supplying high quality, locally produced foods to restaurateurs, publicans, hoteliers, deli and café owners in Kent and East Sussex since 2010, will now deal with the public as well. Entrepreneur Jason Batchelor supplies ingredients from companies that don't offer delivery themselves and whose products are only available in farm shops and at farmers' markets. Visit www.homedelivery.batchelorslocalfoods.co.uk for more information on minmum delivery prices and locations.

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Ultimate girls' night

The Vagina Monologues

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Wednesday, November 7
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

WEST End smash hit The Vagina Monologues will play The Dartford Orchard next week.

An all star cast includes Dancing on Ice winner and Emmerdale's Hayley Tamaddon, Coronation Street's feisty and much loved Vicky Entwistle, who played Janice Battersby for 15 years, and Clare Buckfield, known for her stint in 90s sitcom Two Point Four Children.

This exciting cast gives voice to a chorus of lusty, outrageous, poignant and brave stories. This show is the ultimate girls night out and has been a world-wide hit, from Broadway (where Whoopi Goldberg starred) to the West End.

Tickets cost between £19 and £21 with large group bookings getting an extra discount.

Buzzcocks star is back

Sean Hughes

Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone
Friday, November 30
01622 758 611

FRESH from performing two critically acclaimed shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Award-winning comedian, Sean Hughes brings his national tour to Maidstone.

The show, Life Becomes Noises, starts with a hospital bed and Sean dressed in a slightly inappropriate costume, it is apparent that this is going to be no ordinary comedy show. Hughes, as well as being the youngest ever winner of the coveted Perrier Award, has also won a Fringe First for his short plays, 'Dehydrated' and 'Travellin' Light'.

Despite a prolonged absence from the comedy arena, he was recently voted No. 40 in Channel 4's 'World's 100 Greatest Comedians' poll. Tickets are priced at £16.

Blues rockers

Nine Below Zero return

The Horsebridge, Whitstable
Saturday, November 17
01227 281174
www.thebubbleclub.co.uk

ALONG with the likes of Dr Feelgood and Eddie & The Hot Rods, Nine Below Zero erupted from the eye of the storm that was the UK New Wave at the tail end of the 1970's.

The four-piece blues-rock group are still fronted by Dennis Greaves and Mark Feltham – the same Nine Below Zero who blew the roof off the original Marquee Club back in 1980. During their career they've made a number of critically acclaimed albums following the signing of a record deal with A&M, and have supported Chuck Berry, The Who, The Kinks, Sting, Jools Holland and Eric Clapton.

The Bubble Club are offering tickets priced between £12 and £14. Check online for details.

MOBO's star sax player

YolanDa Brown

Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Sunday, November 25
01227 769075
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

UP and coming British saxophonist and composer YolanDa Brown will play at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, this month.

The artist is a 2008 MOBO "Best Jazz" winner and in 2009, YolanDa became the first musician to not only be nominated in the "Best Jazz" category of the MOBO's in consecutive years, but also the first to win it two years running. In 2009 she also won "Best Jazz" at the UMA's.

As much entrepreneur as she is musician, she has also fronted a TV talk show on a Sky Channel and appeared in inspirational idents for the Black Entertainment Television Network. After all the successes, YolanDa's time on the peripheries of mainstream music is sure to come to an end very soon. Tickets £16.

YOUR WEEKEND

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The Tory boy Portillo takes to the stage

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, November 9
01892 678 678

UNDER conservative Prime Minister John Major, Michael Portillo was a Cabinet Minister in the roles of Chief Secretary to the Treasury before holding the portfolios of Employment and then Defence.

After quitting politics the Tory boy took his opportunity to become a media personality, it was a chance he grabbed with both hands. Anyone heading to the Trinity Theatre with pre-conceived ideas of the man should know that since 2003, Portillo has appeared in the BBC weekly political discussion programme and in a number of documentaries. Now with his latest tour, Life: a game of two halves, Portillo will bend the ear of anyone who will listen, expect to be both delighted and intigued by what he divulges.

Coming of age The Vaccines return to Kent

Winter Gardens, Margate
Wednesday, May 1, 2013
01843 292795
margatewintergardens.co.uk

ARGUABLY the most talked about band at the moment, The Vaccines have announced they will be bringing their new tour to the Margate Winter Gardens.

Their first album "What did you expect from The Vaccines?" was a smash hit in the UK with singles Wreckin' Bar, Post break-up sex and If you wanna, drawing huge acclaim.

Following the September 2012 release of their latest UK number one album, "The Vaccines Come Of Age", as well as a highly rated performance on Later...with Jools Holland the group are hot property once again and the November leg of their tour is already sold out.

Tickets to The Vaccines gig at the Winter Gardens are on sale now priced at £22.50.

Big Brekfast star stand-up Paul Tonkinson

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, November 10
01892 678678

AFTER storming the UK and international comedy circuits for years Yorkshire man, marathon runner and former Time Out Comedian of the Year Paul Tonkinson takes to the road in the UK once again.

A master of physical comedy, impressions and infectious energy, Tonkinson's new show Fancy Man will feature stellar routines that have earned Tonkinson his esteemed reputation.

You may recognise him from his in-house style appearances on legendary early morning show The Big Breakfast, but he has also appeared on BBC's Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Comedy Central'sThe Comedy Store. Tonkinson has even performed to 2,500 troops in 45 degree heat in the middle of the Iraq desert. Tickets £14.

Could be "well good" Lee Nelson returns

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Tuesday, November 6
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

COMEDY chav Lee Nelson returns to The Orchard in Dartford, as part of his 2012 tour.

The comedian, well known for starring in two series of the BBC smash-hit comedy "Lee Nelson's Well Good Show", brings his best friend Omlette and his Nan to the Kent theatre for the second time. Complete with cap and classic trainers, Nelson uses his common touch and interactive chav ideas to entertain his audience. Tickets are priced £23.50, plus a per ticket booking fee. Pre-show dining is also available for the show. The Orchard's Restaurant provides chef-prepared dishes with fresh seasonal flavours and meals are served before your performance.

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Angels and Demons are revealed for all to see as TV crew joins tour

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

UNTIL 2004 only two things were associated with the name Peter Andre, mysterious girls and stomach muscles.

In 1996 Andre had bagged 12 top 10 spots with his single Mysterious Girl all over the world, including two number ones. But that was pretty much where the story ended.

Arguably one of the greatest one hit wonders of all time.

But after agreeing to take part in the I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here reality show on ITV in 2004, the performer's whole world changed. Mysterious Girl came back to number one in the UK chart and Andre was a hit once more. His career had gone full circle, and the rest is history.

Now with his new album, Angels and Demons, coming out and a live tour to go with it, Andre has reinvented himself away from his strictly pop past.

"It has been so bizarre, I am so grateful I have had that second chance. Everyone has been so supportive it has been amazing.

"When I went into the jungle I was expecting to just go in for two weeks and then go back overseas and then Chris Moyles started playing Mysterious Girl on the radio. I came out of the show and found the song had been campaigned on Radio One, it was a dream come true."

And although Mysterious Girl will forever be

sung at Andre by passing strangers, the 39-year-old is ready to move on and create new music.

"I don't mind that (Mysterious Girl) is still there because it is a great song, it worked all over the world for me. You can go as far as Jamaica or all over Europe and everyone knows that song.

"You have to have some sort of talent to keep going, I write music, I write scripts for other stuff and I do public speaking, endorsements and own coffee shops, I am seriously into what I do."

And his new album is the embodiment of the move away from his pop past.

"We all battle our own angels and demons, you have the good guy and bad guy in all of us. It is saying 'I appreciate the angels and demons fighting each other, but can you both leave me alone. Whatever will be will be'.

"A lot of people will relate to the lyrics of this album. It is all different, there's happy stuff, there's darker stuff. And the music is everything from electronic dance to pop to RnB.

"This is what I want to do. I could go back to the real poppy stuff again but I want to do my own thing and not follow anyone. Funnily enough I don't really listen to pop anymore."

Andre has also starred in a string of reality shows which covered both his life with ex-wife and glamour model Katie Price, as well as his more recent shows that follow his career, entitled My Life.

The third series will be filmed during his Up Close and Personal tour which comes to Margate's Winter Gardens on Monday, November 19.

He said: "We have a great visual show, we have illusions and the whole magic circle thing, it should be amazing.

"There will be things happening throughout the show that will be illusions, so people are constantly entertained to do something a bit different. I don't want to just do song and dance you know? I can't say too much because I want people to come and see it, but it is mind boggling."

■ **Visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk or call 01843 296111 for more information and to book tickets.**

MY LIFE: Recognised for his buff abs, Peter Andre is back on tour with his latest album

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Do you rent your home? Then be ready to pay a high price

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW survey claims renters are in for a hard time over the next decade – while homeowners will prosper.

Rents in Kent look set to soar by more than half in the next decade with house prices rising by a huge two thirds, according to the report from the National Housing Federation.

It says "years of not building enough homes" will push rents up 55 per cent by 2022.

In Kent this would mean rents rising from £733 per month to £1,137 per month – an extra £403 every month. Meanwhile, house prices in the South East will increase 61 per cent, the steepest rise nationwide.

The picture is already bleak for Kent renters, says the federation.

Average rents in nine out of 13 Kent local authorities rose faster than incomes in 2012. Across the county, average private rents rose by three per cent while incomes only rose two per cent. Gravesham was hardest hit, with rents rising nine per cent and incomes only two per cent, followed by Swale, where rents rose four per cent but incomes dropped three per cent.

However, average rents fell in Maidstone, Dover and Sevenoaks over the same period.

The report Home Truths 2012 also warns that thousands more families will have to rely on Government support to pay their rent in the next few years.

Despite Government efforts to tackle public debt, the number of working people who rely on housing benefit to pay for private rent has risen 86 per cent across England in the last three years, an increase of more than 400,000 people. This number is only likely to grow with the rises in housing costs forecast in Home Truths 2012 say its compilers.

Warren Finney, South East lead manager for the National Housing Federation, said: "It's crunch time for our unsustainable housing market, with house prices and rents set to rocket in Kent as thousands of families are already struggling to afford their home. One in 16 families in the South East is currently on the waiting list for social housing and it looks like the situation is going to get far worse.

"Successive governments have failed to tackle the under-supply of housing. Now time is running out to fix the problem, and a whole generation are at risk of being priced out of renting a home, let alone buying one.

"Being unable to afford the homes they need can stop people from moving for work. It also prevents young couples from starting families, having a huge impact on people's aspirations and ultimately affecting the economy.

HIGH PRICE: Warren Finney says new homes need to be built urgently to limit a large rise in rental prices

"As our Home Truths report shows, even working families are becoming more and more reliant on housing benefit to help pay their private rent. It's clear the chronic undersupply of new homes across Kent and England needs to be tackled now, to ease the financial pressure for families and Government."

The National Housing Federation is calling on the Government and the whole housing industry to take a long-term, joined up approach to tackle the market difficulties. It says the Government must more immediately release publicly-owned brownfield land to housing associations so they can build more houses.

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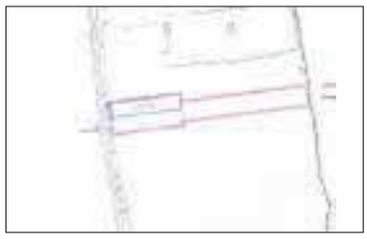

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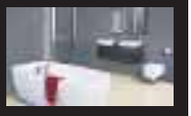

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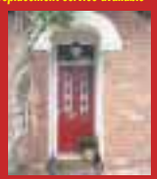

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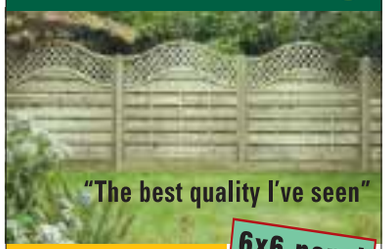

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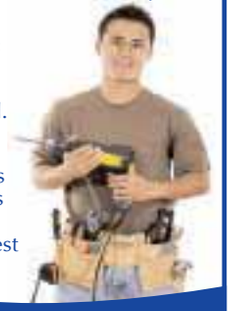

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Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SO often wrong-footed a decade ago by premium rivals, Mercedes-Benz looks like the master of the quickstep at the moment.

This is partly shown by growing UK volumes and market share, but will soon be aided and abetted by a completely new entry model, set to be a major recruiter to the German brand.

It's the all-new A-Class (from £18,945) a radical departure from the previous two generations, which followed a high-profile mini-MPV format.

'Generation 3A' is a rakish, almost coupé-style five-door hatchback using the brand's latest sharp-edged design language.

And it makes huge sense. The previous A-Class overlapped the only slightly bigger B-Class, so you had the nonsensical situation of two smallish MPVs competing for similar customers.

What were arch-rivals Audi and BMW doing, and perhaps VW too, with its big-selling Golf? Selling loads to image-conscious, keen driving private buyers, small business types and young company car user choosers.

But M-B has turned the tables. The A-Class looks good too against its obvious rivals; Audi's obsession with evolution rather than revolution makes the latest A3 look suspiciously like its predecessors.

And talking of looks, the MkII BMW 1 Series is hardly an advance on the awkward first generation car, even if it's a joy to drive.

Coming up on the blind side, but perhaps without the stamina for a strong finish there's also the Lexus CT200h. It's unique in the market place as a compact executive petrol-electric hybrid, but the jury is still out on whether this powertrain beats an eco-friendly diesel. Its looks are also a matter of taste.

Meanwhile, A-Class looks sharp and Mercedes seems determined to give it even more of an edge via some tempting deals. With Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) schemes now making up the bulk of finance on new cars, the A-Class is available from just £249/month, with similar deals for business users.

This works out at a 36-month fixed-term finance offer, based on a £3,279.50 deposit and 4.9 per cent APR.

The opposition will be worried because even as Mercedes has waited for its new most affordable model to arrive, the marque has been posting record market share figures: 4.6 per cent up in the new '62 new reg month of September and currently running at 12.8 per cent ahead of 2011 stats.

This has also seen the C-Class saloon, coupé and estate line-up leap into the UK top 10 sellers list just behind arch-rival, the BMW 3 Series.

Rather than damaging BMW and Audi and other rock solid premium brands though, it underlines the fact private and company car buyers are tending to play safe during shaky economic times, by buying vehicles that hold their value when sold onto the second-hand market.

MERCEDES-BENZ A-CLASS

Price: from £18,945
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliabilty: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: BMW 1 Series

All-new Mercedes A-Class starts off on the right footing

GERMANIC GENIUS: Mercedes has turned the tables on its rivals with the creation of its all-new A-Class, a coupé-style hathcback that comes with some tempting personal finance deals

DON'T LIKE

...how long it took M-B to stop peddling two competing MPV-type cars – the old A-Class and the B-Class – before producing this newcomer.

NOT SURE

...M-B yet has the younger age profile of arch-rivals BMW and Audi, but this smart new A-Class should quickly break down those prejudices.

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...how the giant German brand has admitted "we got it wrong" and hit back with a smart-suited design to match the ambition of would-be drivers.

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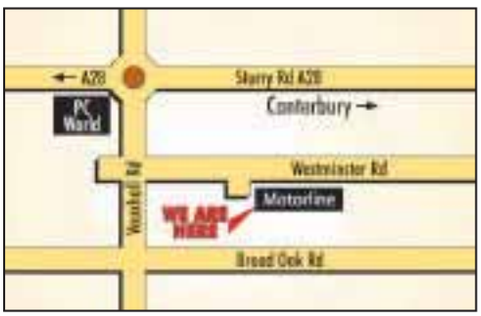

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2010 10 I10 COMFORT AUTOMATIC 5DR 19420 MILES, ELECTRIC RED, REMOTELOCKING, A/C	£6,250	M
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2010 10 I10 1.1 EDITION 5DR 11692 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, SAPPHIRE BLUE	£6,395	C
2011 11 I10 1.2 COMFORT 5DR 14150 MILES, ELEC WINDOWS, PAS, CD/RADIO, AIR CON, SILVER	£6,500	M
2010 60 I10 1.1 EDITION 5DR 3035 MILES, PAS, ELECTRIC PACKS, CENTRAL LOCKING, AIR CON, BLUE METALLIC	£6,695	C
2010 10 I10 1.2 COMFORT AUTOMATIC 9100 MILES, ALLOYS, PAS, AIR CON, ALPINE BLUE	£6,995	M
2012 12 I10 1.2 STYLE 5DR 2776 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, REAR SPOILER, SILVER	£8,495	C
2009 09 I10 1.2 STYLE 19945 MILES, ALLOYS, ELEC WINDOWS, PAS, MET GREY	£5,900	M
2011 11 I10 1.2 COMFORT 13260 MILES, ABS, ELEC WINDOWS, ALLOYS, CD/RADIO, MET BLACK	£6,995	M
i20		
2011 11 I20 1.4 CRDI COMFORT 5DR 11750 MILES, ALLOYS, ABS, AIR CON, CD/RADIO, ELECTRIC RED	£9,250	M
2011 61 I20 S 3DR 6000 MILES, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH, AIR CON, MET BLACK	£9,495	M
2011 61 I20 1.2 COMFORT 5DR 7435 MILES PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, BLACK SATIN	£7,995	C
2011 60 I20 1.4 STYLE 5DR 10901 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, PART LEATHER, BLACK	£7,995	C
2011 11 I20 1.2 COMFORT 5DR 11033 MILES, PAS, ELECTRIC PACK, ALLOY WHEELS, BLUE METALLIC	£7,995	C
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2010 10 I20 1.4D STYLE 5DR 27166 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, PART LEATHER, SATIN BLACK	£8,995	C
2011 11 I20 1.4 COMFORT 5DR 3435 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR CON, PAS, ELEC WINDOWS, MET GREY	£7,900	M
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iX20		
2011 61 IX20 1.6 STYLE AUTOMATIC 4000 MILES, PAS, ALLOYS, SUNROOF, BLUETOOTH SILVER	£12,995	M
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2012 12 IX20 1.6 TD ACTIVE 5DR 9279 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, SILVER METALLIC	£12,995	C
i30		
2009 09 I30 1.6 CRDI STYLE 58300 MILES, PAS, ABS, ALLOYS, PRIVACY GLASS, MET BLUE	£6,995	M
2009 59 I30 1.4 COMFORT 5DR 31778 MILES, ALLO WHEELS, PAS, AIR CON, 1 OWNER, SILVER METALLIC	£6,995	C
2009 09 I30 1.6 PREMIUM AUTO 28850 MILES, PAS, ALLOYS, AIR CON, ABS, MET BLUE	£7,495	M
2011 11 I30 1.4 CLASSIC 17820 MILES, PAS, ELEC WINDOWS, AIR CON, MET GREY	£7,995	M
2009 59 I30 1.6 CRDI COMFORT 5DR GREY 12760 MILES, PAS, ELECTRIC PACK, CENTRAL LCOKING, GREY METALLIC	£8,995	C
2009 59 I30 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM 5DR AUTOMATIC 13471 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CD PLAYER, REMOTE LOCKING, SUNLIGHT SILVER	£9,295	C
2009 09 I30 1.6 COMFORT AUTO 13490 MILES, PAS, ALLOYS, CD/RADIO, AIR CON, ELEC WINDOWS, STEEL GREY	£7,995	M
2009 59 I30 1.6 PREMIUM 5DR AUTOMATIC 16091 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, GREY METALLIC	£7,995	C
2009 59 I30 1.6 COMFORT 5DR AUTOMATIC 26,014 MILES, PAS, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SILVER METALLIC	£7,795	C
2011 11 I30 1.6 CRDI COMFORT AUTO 8950 MILES, PAS, ALLOYS, CD/RADIO, AIR CON, ELEC WINDOWS, ICE BLUE	£10,250	M
2008 08 I30 1.4 STYLE 5DR 28417 MILES, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, BLUE METALLIC	£6,295	C
2011 11 I30 1.6 CRDI COMFORT MANUAL 14350 MILES, PAS, ALLOYS, CD/RADIO, AIR CON, ELEC WINDOWS, SILVER	£10,250	M
2009 59 I30 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM 5DR 23542 MILES, PAS, ABS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, ALLOY WHEELS, BERMUDA BLUE	£9,495	C
2012 12 NEW MODEL I30 1.4 CLASSIC 5DR 3244 MILES, PAS, AIR CON, WHITE	£12,295	C
2009 09 I30 1.6 CRDI STYLE GREY 28917 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, GREY METALLIC	£7,995	C
2012 12 NEW MODEL I30 1.6 CRDI STYLE NAVIGATION ESTATE 2665 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, FULL MAP SATNAV, REVERSING CAM,	£18,995	C
2012 12 NEW MODEL I30 1.4 CRDI CLASSIC 5DR 3988 MILES, PAS, ABS, CENTRAL LOCKING, 5 DOOR GREY METALLIC	£12,495	C
2011 11 I30 1.6 CRDI COMFORT ESTATE AUTO 2500 MILES, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, CD/RADIO/AUX PAS, ABS, GREY METALLIC	£12,995	M
iX35		
2010 10 IX35 2.0 PREMIUM MEDIA 5DR 22278 MILES, REVERSING CAMERA, ALLOY WHEELS, MEDIA ACK, WHITE	£15,995	C
2011 11 IX35 1.7D PREMIUM 5DR 19581 MILES, PAS, ALOY WHEELS, FULL LEATHER TRIM, SILVER METALLIC	£16,495	C
2012 12 IX35 1.7 PREMIUM WITH MEDIA PACK/INDIVIDUAL 3887 MILES PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, TWIN SUNROOFS, AIR CON, STEEL GREY,	£18,995	C
i40		
2012 61 I40 1.7CRDI STYLE SALOON MANUAL 5000 MILES, MEDIA PACK, REVERSING SENSORS/CAMERA, SILVER	£17,895	M
2011 61 I40 1.7 CRDI PREMIUM AUTO 16837 MILES, METALLIC TITANIUM, MEDIA PACK, VISION PACK, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, LEATHER	£20,995	M
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i800		
2011 61 I800 2.5D STYLE 5DR 16491 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, AIR CON, SATIN BLACK	£17,995	C
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2009 59 COUPE 2.0GS111 MANUAL 1641 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, BLACK LEATHER, AIR CON, SATIN BLACK,	£8,795	C
2012 62 VELOSTER 1.6 SPORT MEDIA COUPE DELIVERY MILEAGE MEDIA SPORT WHEELS, REVERSING CAMERA, YELLOW	£18,995	C
2012 62 VELOSTER TURBO COUPE 901 MILES, ALLOY WHEELS, REMOTE LOCKING, TURBO LEATHER TRIM, SAT NAV, REV CAM, WHITE	£21,995	C
2009 09 COUPE 2.0GS111 MANUAL 15485 MILES, LEATHER, ALLOYS, ABS, PAS, CD/RADIO SILVER METALLIC	£7,900	M
SANTA FE		
2007 57 SANTA FE 2.2 CDX 5DR AUTOMATIC 38,818 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, BLACK	£12,795	C
2008 8 SANTA FE 2.2 CDX 5DR 37,837 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, FULL LEATHER, SATIN BLACK	£13,995	C
2009 59 SANTA FE 2.2 GSI CRTD MANUAL 17000 MILES, ALLOYS, ELEC WINDOWS, ABS, SILVER METALLIC	£15,900	M
2008 58 SANTA FE 2.2 CDX CRTD AUTO 36000 MILES, LEATHER, ABS, ELEC WINDOWS, HEATED SEATS, SILVER	£15,995	M
2009 09 SANTA FE 2.2 CDX AUTO 5 SEAT 15750 MILES, LEATHER, ALLOYS, ABS, PAS, MET GREY	£16,500	M
2010 60 SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI STYLE 5ST MANUAL 13150 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR CON, ABS, LEATHER, MET BLACK	£16,750	M
2009 9 SANTA FE 2.2 CDX CRTD 5DR AUTOMATIC 37866 MILES, PAS, FULL LEATHER TRIM, ALLOY WHEELS, BLUE METALLIC	£13,750	C
2011 61 SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI PREMIUM AUTO 3501 MILES, LEATHER, AIR CON, ABS, PAS, MET GREY	£20,995	M
2007 7 SANTA FE 2.2 CRTD CDX+ AUTO 7ST 48437 MILES, LEATHER, AIR CON, PRIVACY GLASS, MET BLACK	£12,495	M
OTHER MAKES		
2004 04 AUDI 1.8 TT CONVERTIBLE ALLOY WHEELS, PAS, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, BLUE METALLIC	£6,495	C
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2009 09 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 16V GP 5DR 31800 MILES, RED, REMOTE LOCKING, PAS, ELEC WINDOWS, RED	£5,995	M
2010 60 FIAT QUBO DYNAMIC MULTIJET SA 5DR AUTOMATIC 26,911 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, RUBY RED METALLIC	£8,495	C
2011 11 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 5DR AUTOMATIC 6998 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, AIR CON, SILVER METALLIC	£9,295	C
2009 59 FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR AUTOMATIC 25,897 MILES, PAS, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, SILVER	£6,495	C
2008 58 FORD MONDEO 2.0TDCI EST TITANIUM 45780 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR CON, CD RADIO, PAS, ABS, MET RED	£9,700	M
2009 09 HONDA CRV-EX CDTI 31770 MILES, ABS, AIR CON, ALLOYS, REMOTE LOCKING, MET BLACK	£18,000	M
2009 59 KIA CEED 2 ECODYNAMICS CRDI 5DR PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, REMOTE LOCKING, RADIANT RED METALLIC	£7,495	C
2010 59 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 TD 4WD XS 5DR 22738 MILES, PAS, 6 SPEED MANUAL, AIR CON, FULL LEATHER, SILVER METALLIC	£12,495	C
2010 60 KIA VENGA 2 AUTO 9966 MILES PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, GREY METALLIC	£9,995	C
2009 09 SKODA FABIA 2 1.6 ESTATE AUTOMATIC 16,101 MILES PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, SATIN BLACK	£6,795	C
2009 59 SKODA FABIA 2 1.6 ESTATE AUTOMATIC 26,990 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, CENTRAL LOCKING, BLUE METALLIC	£6,995	C
2007 57 MITSUBISHI COLT CZ3 1.5 TD 3DR PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, FULL LEATHER, 1 OWNER, ICE BLUE METALLIC	£4,995	C
2009 59 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 VISIO 5DR AUTOMATIC 8633 MILES, PAS, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 5DR BLUE METALLIC	£6,995	C
2012 12 NISSAN JUKE 1.5TD TEKNA 5DR 12591 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, MAPLE RED	£15,995	C
2010 10 NISSAN QASHQAI N TEC SAT NAV 5DR 19,472 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, SAT NAV, REVERSING CAMERA, REMOTE LOCKING, BRONZE	£15,795	C
2010 10 NISSAN QASHQAI N TEC 5DR SAT NAV 11,018 MILES, PAS, SAT NAV, ELECTRIC PACK, BRONZE METALLIC	£14,795	C
2009 59 NISSAN QASHQUAI 2.0 NTEC PLUS 2 4WD AUTOMATIC 13875 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, SAT NAV, AIR CON, NIGHT SHADE METALLIC	£18,995	C
2011 11 PEUGEOT 207 HDI ACTIVE 5 DR 4,755 MILES PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, ABS, SILVER METALLIC	£9,995	C
2010 10 PEUGEOT 308 SPORT HDI 5DR 29,480 MILES, PAS, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, VULCAN RED METALLIC	£8,495	C
2009 09 TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0 D4D T4 TOURER 8091 MILES, 1 OWNER, FULL LEATHER, CENTRAL LOCKING, ALLOY WHEELS, SILVER MIST	£12,995	C
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New CX-5 bold first flight for Mazda's SkyActiv technology

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE'S lots of marketing speak bandied about as carmakers chase the green consciences and recession-hit wallets of potential buyers.

Some is hot air, but the word 'SkyActiv' on the back of the latest Mazda is a genuine statement of intent.

Like many in the industry, Mazda is not convinced that hybrid and electric powertrains are (yet) the answer to driving down fossil fuel consumption and emissions.

They are also ruinously expensive to develop yet the new technology's market penetration is still limited, so the progressive Japanese marque has opted to squeeze as much as possible from the internal combustion engine by re-thinking the whole car thing.

This means shaving weight in every department, making the car as aerodynamic as possible, reducing friction in the engine and mechanicals and looking for big powertrain efficiencies.

And the working prototype for this SkyActiv brainstorming is an all-new Mazda model, the CX-5 crossover or compact SUV, launched in the summer.

It's an impressive and good-looking car too, which bodes well for SkyActiv's later application to Mazda's more mainstream models and the next generation of the legendary MX-5 sports car.

The CX-5 (from £21,395) feels light on its feet even in full 4x4 format – you can also have it in front-wheel drive only, to eke out even more economy – and comes with three highly efficient engine choices: a 2.2-litre diesel offering 150PS (148bhp) or 175PS (173bhp) and a 165PS (163bhp) low emission 2.0-litre petrol unit.

The test car was a flagship 175PS diesel with a slick six-speed automatic allowing 51.4mpg on the official combined cycle and modest CO2 emissions for this class of 144g/km.

While we may all be used to the revolution in diesel refinement, this unit is a paragon of the modern type, being smooth and free-revving.

This makes it a relaxed motorway drive, no doubt helped by the slippery and great design of the car as well as some effective sound-deadening – not that you hear much from the diesel even when standing outside the car.

The car needs just a light touch around tortuous country lanes too, where it definitely stakes a claim as one of the few real driver's cars in the small SUV segment, even if its low weight perhaps makes ride quality slightly susceptible to increasingly tatty rural road surfaces.

It's inside the CX-5 that the deal is made or broken though.

Some buyers will see the enormous cabin with great legroom as the clincher, and it's not bought at the expense of a modest boot; the CX-5 has one of the biggest in class and Mazda's much-imitated one-touch folding release for the rear seats aids flexibility.

Five are also seated in comfort, with decent elbow room for whoever sits midships in the back, even if he or she has to perch on a narrow seat that can fold independently of its neighbours to accommodate long objects loaded through from the boot.

But other would-be buyers may be a touch underwhelmed by the interior; it's well-arranged with good stowage, but looks and feels a bit cheap for a car hammering on the door of the premium segment with its sharp styling and technology, eco credentials and, unfortunately, steep pricing.

Okay, Mazda's profitability here is probably squeezed by the strength of the Yen so the CX-5 can't help but have a premium price, but you cannot help thinking that the Korean duo – Hyundai and Kia – have raised their game so high on interiors that they are putting not just Mazda, but most Japanese rivals to shame.

Nevertheless, this is a progressive car worthy of anyone's crossover/SUV shortlist

MAZDA CX-5 2.2 (175PS DSL) SPORT AUTO AWD: PRICE £28,395

FLIGHT AND FANCY: The impressive CX-5 boasts Mazda's new SkyActiv technology, the carmaker's answer to reducing fossil fuel usage and emissions, and offers a smart compact SUV that is sure to make a big impression on the sector

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£135/year
Best rival:	Nissan Qashqui

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Round seven for VW's Golf

ORDER books are open for the new seventh generation VW Golf, arriving at dealers on January 7, 2013.

Prices start below those of the previous model, at £16,285, yet the new car is claimed to be lighter, safer, more advanced, more spacious, more efficient and better equipped than before.

Sporty GTI and frugal BlueMotion models join the line-up later in 2013.

Outdoor takes on A6 AllRoad

SKODA might be about to upset premium sister brand Audi with a cut-price version of the latter's A6 AllRoad.

The Superb Outdoor (from £26,465) is a comfortable and practical car for the winter, wearing protective strips on the doors, bumpers and wheel arches.

It also rides on big 18-inch alloys and has permanent all-wheel drive for extra traction in ice, snow or rain.

Fiesta Ford's used car star

FORD took four honours at this year's prestigious What Car? Used Car awards including top prize for the Fiesta (pictured) – also the UK's top-selling new car.

Judges praised its value as a pre-owned vehicle, refinement and ability to put a smile on any driver's face.

The Ford Mondeo was judged winner of the family category for the second year running.

MOTORING

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LOOKING GOOD: Toyota's sleek new Auris hatchback (above) in hybrid form; Auris Tourer Sports will be the only small estate with hybrid power; the revised Verso MPV (above) gets the swish new Toyota front end

British-built Toyota Auris shows brand's new spirit

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORD'S decision to close its last remaining vehicle production plant – for the Transit van – removes the fig leaf hiding its long-lost status as a major UK car producer.

And this can only be good news for Japanese brands like Toyota, which are pumping money and jobs into the British economy.

The point is well made by the all-new Auris family hatchback (from £14,495) arriving in a few weeks and built at the brand's Derbyshire plant, which also produces the bigger Avensis.

It also marks a change of tack for Toyota, which has ensured that its latest contender in the hard-fought family hatch sector is lower, more aerodynamic and stylish than before.

The firm tried to change its fortunes in this arena before by axing the old Corolla name – for which the market had habitually read "dependable, but dull" – replacing it with the Auris, but more of the same.

So, belatedly realising it takes more than a name change to change public perception, Toyota has gone for it and included a smart and dynamic new front end tipped to become the Japanese number one's new corporate face.

The newcomer is said to be a much better drive; lighter, better looking inside, as well as even more efficient – a petrol-electric Auris Hybrid flagship is offered once more and one with style thrown in.

But if Toyota has taken its eye off the visual stuff over the past few years in order to focus on efficiencies and, particularly hybrid power, that doesn't mean the latter will be neglected this time around; the new Auris Hybrid has a bigger boot than before as the battery pack has been re-positioned beneath the rear seats.

Apart from the hybrid, the Auris will be offered with 1.33 and 1.6-litre petrol engines and a 1.4-litre diesel. A crisp looking estate version, the Auris Touring Sports will also appear shortly and become the first small family estate car offered with a full hybrid powertrain.

Also arriving soon is an updated version of Toyota's practical seven-seat Verso MPV, which gets the new corporate nose too.

And it seems Toyota has beaten an unhealthy obsession with all things green; it used to glamorise its mainstream range with sporting stablemates such as the MR2, Celica and Supra.

But then came the Japanese car giant's promotion of the hybrid; laudable, of course, but where did those sporting halo cars go?

Finally, Toyota woke up and has launched the wonderfully retro GT86 sports coupé with rear-wheel drive. It's doing wonders for a once lacklustre image and shows a new brand confidence.

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4x4 Buyer's Guide

Interest in sector soars ahead of winter

By Steve Loader

ANY bets against us having a foul winter after a dismal summer?

To add to the odds in favour we must also acknowledge we have had a run of winters with more than a dash of snow and ice, despite the relative dryness of last winter, which prompted an un-seasonally early hosepipe ban.

We also need to reckon with the deterioration of Kent roads, caught between several tarmac-cracking winters and budget cutbacks – despite County Hall's increased repairs programme.

So it's perhaps no wonder that the arrival of the traditional 4x4 vehicle buying season looms larger than usual, also highlighting a reconciliation with the type, which once earned a bad reputation with consumers as wasteful gas guzzlers when the economy took a downturn.

From being the fashionable darlings of city dwellers who liked to suggest that they were country people, they were suddenly cast as the villains of the piece. But even 4x4s have got greener as the buying public grapples with its eco-conscience as well as that other eco – economy, forced upon us all by the recession.

There are also so many shades of 4x4 vehicles now too, ranging from big and beefy go anywhere true off-roaders, down to so-called 'soft-roaders' or SUVs; the latter might not have the ground clearance, but drive to all four wheels can kick in for extra grip when it matters, and they're cheaper to buy and run too.

The breakthrough has been the arrival of more economical, but punchy diesel engines and cheaper all-wheel drive systems, allowing the car to run in two-wheel drive most of the time, saving fuel, emissions and tyres, while automatically reverting to 4x4 if sensors recognise traction is being lost by any of the wheels.

At the top end though, 4x4 is usually permanent with true off-roaders and comes with two sets of gear ratios: one for normal conditions and a second and much lower set for extra power and traction when the going gets really tough.

Sometimes this is packaged as a system that allows selection of a mode according to terrain or conditions, leaving the car to work out the best gears and chassis set-up.

But bulk and grunt are not everything; weight can be a curse in tough situations; lighter 4x4s can be just as effective, providing there is enough ground clearance and you don't expect Herculean climbs in mud or snow.

COMPACT YET CAPABLE: The rugged yet stylish Range Rover Evoque can brush aside bad conditions

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ix35

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

ix35 Style 1.6 GDi

36 Monthly Payments of	£249.00
On The Road Price	£17,895.00
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£1,250.00
Customer Deposit	£4,288.25
Amount of Credit	£12,356.75
Interest Charges	£1,834.75
Optional Final Payment	£5,227.50
Total Amount Payable	£19,729.75
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	6.9%*

New Generation Santa Fe

Personal Contract Purchase Example

New Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD

36 Monthly Payments of	£329.00
On The Road Price	£25,990.00
Customer Deposit	£7,815.75
Amount of Credit	£18,174.25
Interest Charges	£2,403.50
Optional Final Payment	£8,733.75
Total Amount Payable	£28,393.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	5.9%*

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Models shown: ix35 Style 1.6 GDi at £17,895 OTR in Sleek Silver metallic paint at £495 included. New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD manual at £25,990 OTR in Titanium Silver metallic paint at £495 included. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable. VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *6.9% APR available on Hyundai ix35 models and 5.9% APR available on all New Generation Santa Fe models for retail customers only. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st October and 31st December 2012, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat: Urban 38.2 (7.4) Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 155 g/km.

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Top 10 4x4 driving tips

WINTER WARMERS: A tough and plush new contender to the sector is the third generation Hyundai Santa Fe (far left) while you get plenty of affordable style from Kia's Sportage

DON'T ever think a 4x4 makes you invincible.

Yes, extra driving wheels and weight equals more traction when conventional cars are losing grip or sliding about, but a 4x4 can still skid if you do not treat treacherous conditions with respect.

What's more, the extra bulk of an off-roader can cause things to happen quickly if you over-cook things.

So, our 10 top tips for when things get tricky:

1 Use dipped headlights – snow flakes or driving rain, like fog, will simply reflect light back at you.

2 Watch your speed – things happen fast on slippery surfaces. Keep a stopping distance equivalent to what is visible and clear ahead of you and do not follow the vehicle in front too closely. As a yardstick, stopping distances are ten times longer in snow and ice.

3 Softly does it – gentle use of the accelerator, brakes, clutch and steering prevents loss of control. Avoid wheel-spin when pulling away by selecting 2nd gear and easing in the clutch.

4 If the car has a specific mode for the driving conditions, then select it – the onboard computer thinks and reacts faster than you.

5 Right gear – anticipate gear changes ahead of a new gradient. Be in the right gear to start climbing rather than risk loss of control with a hurried change half way, and reduce the risk of a skid by selecting a lower gear on descent – first gear in the lowest set of ratios, if fitted, gives maximum control in tricky conditions. With an auto transmission without a manual override, there should be a 'low' drive or 'terrain control' option for snow and ice.

6 'Think high' on the flat – lower gears work best on gradients, but higher is best on level ground while a lower gear increases the car's torque or pulling power and, therefore, the chance of a skid from a clumsy foot on the accelerator.

7 Make sure that you clean feet – knock off snow, ice or mud from your boots/shoes in case they cause your feet to slip on the controls.

8 Clear before you go – remove snow and ice from the mirrors and windows for maximum visibility and clear the bodywork and roof too to avoid snow sliding onto the windscreen and obscuring your view.

9 Enough fuel? – never set out in bad weather without adequate fuel. If forced to halt, you may need the spare fuel to keep the car heated until conditions improve or help arrives. Pack some drinks and provisions before leaving too.

10 Snow chains – if you intend driving to the Alps, you must pack them or risk a fine from the police and do check the vehicle's manual beforehand to determine which wheels you need to fit them on. Don't ever think a 4x4 can do without them if the going gets tough.

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ix35 Style 1.6 GDi

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New Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD

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Interest Charges	£2,403.50
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Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	5.9%*

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4X4 GUIDE

Visit **carsforkent.co.uk**

LOADS OF FUN: Multiple award-winner for towing is the Land Rover Discovery, but for a 4x4 on a budget Hyundai's big-selling ix35 (top right) hits the mark as does the economical seven-seat run Kia Sorento

Which type to buy?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BUYING a 4x4 is a no-brainer if you work on a farm, have to visit construction sites or live in a rural area where mud, ice and snow can make winter driving hazardous.

Some would-be buyers also need a 4x4 for towing; they can pull greater weights and all-wheel drive is a major reassurance when doing so.

On the other hand, they are not a cheap option if you rarely need the full 4x4 potential, which is why smaller and less expensive SUVs (sports utility vehicle) have evolved.

These deliver all the image and often just as much space as a top grade 4x4, but they are less costly to run, being lighter and usually equipped with an automatic all-wheel drive system that mostly runs in front-wheel drive, either by manual selection or by an automatic function – the latter diverts more power and grip to the rear wheels if onboard sensors decide that help is needed.

Then you must decide on the powertrain; diesel is the preferred choice as it gives good low down power when a 4x4 needs it – in other words, when the going gets tough. It's also better for fuel and emissions, but diesels can cost more upfront than petrol models, so you need to cover more miles to recoup the extra outlay via fuel savings.

Hybrids are also available and the forthcoming Range Rover hybrid will cause many rivals to re-think their strategy.

The economies of the hybrid format make more sense on bigger vehicles anyway.

Another question is: how many seats? Some models offer five or seven and best advice is to go for the latter if you can afford it as there will always be a time when you need those extra seats, and these cars tend to depreciate less as there is more secondhand demand.

In addition, cars designed to hold up to seven, are almost certain to have more load space too, but this means they may be bulkier than you need; for many people the attraction of modern SUVs is getting the 4x4 look without having to worry about parking at the supermarket.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai Santa Fe range: Urban 31.7 (8.9) – 38.2 (7.4), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 56.5 (5.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8) – 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 178 – 155 g/km.

RUGBY

Anchorians eye new structure to bring in youth

GILLINGHAM Anchorians coach Alex Browne is hoping the club's coaching structure can be improved sooner rather than later to put it on a firmer footing in the future.

The London 3 South East side have been talking about expanding their structure for the last year in a bid to have more homegrown talent coming through the ranks.

Picture: ALAN BOURNE

DEPTH: Club hasn't got the pulling power of rival

Currently the club rely largely on word of mouth for new players, but they want to be in a position where they can fill gaps from youth sides in the future.

It's all the more evident it needs to happen at the moment as the club are suffering a shortage of players thanks to an injury crisis.

Browne said all the time they carry on in theur current form they runs the risk of losing youngsters from local schools to rival sides.

"The committee is trying to get guys in position so we can compete with the likes of Medway Rugby Club," he said. "It's just being talked about at the moment, I'm hoping it can happen sooner rather than later because we need to get sorted as soon as possible.

"We are talking with Howard School at the moment, they are the closest school. Without the structure a lot of those guys are going to Medway, understandably because they have got the structure in place."

The Anchorians were sixth in the table, with three wins and three losses ahead of this weekend's trip to Tunbridge Wells. Browne is hoping some of those out injured will be back soon.

"Some are short term and some are longer term. A couple will be out for a two months while another broke his leg," he said.

"We counted up how many were missing from our last game and there were 13 from the squad of 22. We have looked to recruit a few guys but we have mostly shifted up from our three teams. We even had some of the older guys coming out of retirement."

BOXING

More pro bouts could turn county into a boxing powerhouse again

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

BLUEWATER'S debut as a professional boxing venue may have caught all the headlines last month, but the seeds for Kent's boxing future have been steadily growing at the back of a warehouse on the edge of Queensborough for some time.

James DeGale's arrival in north Kent for the defence of his European super-middleweight title at Glow was a rare professional event the county's boxing fans had waited too long to see.

The county has the potential to support far more pro bouts than are currently staged, which is where pro trainer Ray Askew is hoping to step in and put Kent back on the map.

Londoner Askew has been in the game for the last 30 years, 20 of which he's been running Invicta Gym, home to many an amateur boxer and martial arts fighter. He's also spent time at Sheerness, Faversham, and Brompton boxing clubs, while enjoying a brief pro kickboxing career, having been taught how to fight by his mum from the day he was born.

Having seen the potential two local talents possessed he decided to get his pro licence a couple of years ago, training Hoo's Adam Dingsdale, who fought on the undercard for DeGale's bout, and Joe Elfidh from Chatham.

On the back of that fight, promoted by Mick Hennessy, he's hoping more amateurs will take the plunge into the pro game.

However, he said it was a chicken and egg scenario where new pros go off to London and around the country because of a lack of fight venues in their home county, but on the other hand there are few fights because of the lack of local pros to help with ticket sales.

FUTURE: Adam Dingsdale was on the undercard of James DeGale's fight

"The show was a real success," he said. "There's rumours they are looking for two or three shows a year there, which is great for Kent because professional boxing is sadly lacking in the county.

"Part of the hesitation in putting pro shows on in Kent is not having enough Kent-based pro boxers, because fans need to have someone to follow.

"Adam (Dingsdale) is a big ticket seller. In a week and a half before the Glow show he sold 220 tickets. Given more time, God knows how many he could have sold.

"I really do believe it's going to perpetuate the appearance of more people wanting to turn pro from amateurs. What's happened in the past is we've had pro boxers but they've gone off to London shows.

"I'm not sure of the number of the pro gyms in Kent, there aren't many. I'm sure Bluewater will be beneficial to everyone."

Having seen what the pro world has to offer, he admits he wishes he'd got his pro licence sooner. It came about when he met light-weight fighter Elfidh at Chatham's Brompton Boxing Club a few years ago. He didn't have a pro coach and after some deliberation the pair went into partnership, and were last year joined by Dingsdale.

"We want to be part of the pro boxing scene in Kent, I believe we have got two of the biggest prospects in the county," he said. "Everything we do is on a shoe-string, buy you don't need shiny weights and MTV to train hard.

"When the opportunity came up to turn pro I did um and ah about it, because I wanted to make sure I had enough time to commit.

"I love it, I wish I had done it sooner, I think it's the best thing I have ever taken part in. The people are the best you will ever meet. They are supportive, very competitive, but great people to be around."

Having originally started the gym back in his days as a kick boxer because he had no one to spa with, he's now hoping more will join for him to train.

• For more information about the gym visit their website at www.invictakickbox.webs.com.

CRICKET

Anti-gravity treadmill speeds up Kent star's return

KENT batsman Daniel Bell-Drummond is hoping to finally be able to bowl again for the first time in three years, courtesy of a hi-tech anti-gravity treadmill.

The state-of-the-art piece of kit allows users to train while not putting so much weight on their lower body.

And that means Bell-Drummond, 19, has been able to have much-needed surgery to treat an ankle problem and begin his recouperation swiftly.

The young star has been unable to bowl due to suffering from Os Trigonum syndrome, a condition where a small bone in the ankle causes pain when put through certain movements – like those used in the bowling process.

He's had to wait until now to get it fixed as it's the first break the Lewisham-born right-hander has had as he's toured with the England under-19 team in the winter months.

"Ten per cent of people have it in their ankles," he said. "It doesn't really affect you unless you do specific sports. When I was 16 I was a bit of an all-rounder. I bowled for the Kent junior teams and at my school, so I thought I was pretty decent."

He went under the knife two weeks ago and has since moved into team mate Charlie Shreck's flat at the St Lawrence Ground.

It means he has instant access to the AlterG Anti-Gravity Treadmill at the St Lawrence Physiotherapy Clinic.

Normally he wouldn't have been able to start any rehab for a month, but with the aid of the treadmill, which recreates weightless conditions, he can start weeks earlier.

It's like any other treadmill except the user is zipped in to an airtight cockpit below the waist in which the air pressure is altered to replicate the weightless feeling. Kent team mate Ashley Shaw is also making use of the treadmill in his return from long term shin splints.

"I can run on 40 per cent of my body weight on the machine," said Bell-Drummond. "I should be fully fit by the new year – that's the plan."

While he's disappointed not to have been able to bowl, he feels it's had its benefits as he's made his mark with the bat.

"Bowlers get injured quite a bit. If I had bowled I would have increased my chances of injury," he said. "I definitely see myself as a batsman, but if my bowling can improve it can only be another string to my bow.

"It's also been good to have a winter to rest for once and give my body the chance to recover."

The county have the treadmill on loan from the Canterbury clinic for the first time.

Nimmo Reid who is the director of physiotherapy at the clinic and at Kent said: "Rather than telling Dan to gradually put weight back on his ankle while on crutches we can control it on the treadmill."

WEIGHTLESS: Bell-Drummond is all zipped in

FOOTBALL

Allen proving a master in the loan market for Gills

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

LOAN signings can all too often end in disappointment for fans, but that's not the case this season as Martin Allen's shrewd acquisitions continue to impress.

There haven't been any teenage wannabes warming the bench at Priestfield, instead Allen's brought in proven promotion winners who could easily be more at home in the league above.

The latest to arrive is Frenchman Romain Vincelot, who netted against AFC Wimbledon on his debut last weekend having come in on a two-month loan from Brighton. Before then the 27-year-old spent two years with Dagenham & Redbridge where he earned a reputation as a goalscoring midfielder in League One.

It's a different scenario to last season when the Gills were reliant on bringing in younger loan players looking to make their mark under former boss, now director of football, Andy Hessenthaler. Hower his hand was forced with as his squad was severely hit by injuries.

"Everything that Allen does at the moment seems to pay off," said chairman of the Gills Independent Supporters Club Gary Liptrott. "We're getting more experienced loan players coming in who have played in the higher leagues.

"Maybe Allen has more contacts than Hessy did. I don't know whether there is a bit more trust in Allen from chairman Paul Scally either.

"I can remember a few years ago when we were in the Championship under Stan Ternent, he got Jonathan Douglas and Jay McEveley on loan from Blackburn who were in the Premier League, which was a masterstroke at the time."

Other arrivals include young centre back Tom Flanagan who's on loan until January, experienced utility man David Wright who impressed on loan from Crystal Palace last month, while USA international striker Robbie Findley made four appearances in a mixed spell.

Those deals will come at a cost, with the club footing the bill for a percentage of their wages – but is it a financial step too far on the back of other big signings in the summer?

"There is a little bit of a worry that we are paying quite a bit in wages to bring in people, and unless the crowds really start to come in to Priestfield we might be stretching the budget," said Liptrott.

"Last season we could have done with some of those experienced guys, maybe it would have made the difference in getting us into the play-offs. It's a fine line, are they worth it for a month or two?"

ARRIVAL: Loan man Romain Vincelot bagged a goal on his debut in the win over AFC Wimbledon. He's the latest in a number of successful loans that boss Martin Allen has brought in

FOOTBALL

Watson reluctantly taking to the pitch to help club's form

CHATHAM Town boss Kevin Watson is hoping he can get back to managing from the sidelines rather than on the pitch as he has done in recent weeks.

With his side eight games without a win, the 31-year-old, pictured right, has resorted to leading on the pitch in a bid to change their fortunes, a decision he says he's not taken lightly.

Having started the season three games unbeaten, they have slid down the Ryman One North table to 15th in the last two months picking up four draws and four losses before this weekend's clash at home to Redbridge.

"I have always said I haven't dismissed playing myself," he said. "It's been a case of needs must. It got to the stage where I felt like I had to do something, I didn't make the decision lightly.

"I know I have scored a couple, and people will naively think I have added something, but the last time I didn't play well. If I feel like I can give something then I will play.

"There are games we have drawn which we should have won, and the games we have lost have been by narrow margins."

Watson's side haven't played since the 2-0 Kent Senior Cup loss to Charlton on Wednesday, October 24, and he's hoping that can be to their advantage after previously enduring a busy spell of games.

"We didn't have a game on Saturday, so we have had a mini-winter break if you like," he said. "I see the break as a positive, it's given people a chance to recharge their batteries. It gives people time to reflect and hopefully they will come back with the bit between their teeth."

BREAK: Chatham had weekend off

FOOTBALL

Brickies defender Davis is challenged to find the net

JOINT Brickies manager Danny Ward is hoping there are plenty more goals to come from defender Nick Davis, after he notched his second of the season in midweek.

Davis, who was available for selection again following work commitments abroad, has been regularly relied upon to find the net at former sides where brothers Jim and Danny Ward have managed.

Now he's at Bourne Park it's hoped he can carry on that form, having scored from a set piece in the 1-1 draw against Walton Casuals on Tuesday. Davis has also been named the club's new captain following Jason Dolby's absence through suspension.

"He's always scored goals for me, when we were at Maidstone, and Ramsgate," he said. "He always gets half a dozen no matter what division he's in. He tells me he's going to get 10 this year."

There were seven changes for that game as suspensions and injuries continued to hamper selection, but on a positive note Curtis Winnett and Nick Treadwell returned to action from injury.

However midfielder Antonio Gonella who signed last week from Faversham will be out for some time after twisting his knee 10 minutes after coming on as a second-half sub in that game.

Defender Aaron Gough and midfielder Adam Fletcher have also left the club.

Picture: KEN MEDWYN

TARGET: Ward, centre, wants goals

ICE HOCKEY

Picture: DAVE TREVALLION

LAUGH: Parrish has made training more fun

Parrish hopes fun and games give Dynamos confidence to kick on

INVICTA Dynamos coach Kevin Parrish has revealed he's taken a more light-hearted approach to training in a bid to get his team playing with more confidence.

The Gillingham-based side had an inconsistent start to the campaign – losing five of their first 10 matches, but they have bounced back in the last two weeks with three wins, and impressive victories at that as they overcame Romford Raiders, Chelmsford Chieftains, and thrashed Oxford City Stars.

Parrish feels confidence began to drain out of his players as they struggled to put wins together which is why he's adapted training sessions, and given some players a hug rather than the hairdryer treatment.

"We put a few funny things in to training to let them have a laugh and a joke," he said. "It helps take the pressure off. I've been telling them that they are here for a reason, they're not here to just make up the numbers."

Inevitably there has been a settling-in period with seven new players on the roster, but Parrish is confident things are beginning to gel, helped by good banter between players.

"We have started having a bit of a debrief after the game and I always try to end it on a positive note, sometimes they need a hug, but when that happens they know they will get the hairdryer treatment as well sometime," he said.

"I don't really hug my wife that much, so I'm not going to be hugging the players too much either. You can go into the dressing room and smash a load of sticks up, but we can't afford to buy new sticks all the time.

"Some players respond differently if you shout at them. They have got to figure out what I'm about and I have to figure out what they are about, that's probably part of it as well."

He said performances are also improving with the new-found confidence.

"We are playing a bit more free-flowing hockey," he said. "Since the start of the campaign we have always worked hard, we have just thrown certain games away through 10 minute lapses in concentration, and we couldn't get out of doing that for a while.

"The confidence started going out of some players, they were passing when they should be shooting, and shooting when they should be passing. Getting those couple of wins was what we needed."

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